



Qui pecuniâ non movetur, hunc dignum spectatu arbitramur.

Cicero.



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Cicero.

THE
REMARKABLE
HISTORY
OF THE
RISE and FALL
OF
MASANIELLO,
THE
FISHERMAN of NAPLES.

CONTAINING

An Exact and Impartial Relation of the
Tumults and popular Insurrections that
happened in that Kingdom, on Account
of the excessive Taxes and other Oppres-
sions of the People.

L O N D O N :

Printed by J. BROWNE, No. 73, Shoe-Lane,
and sold by the Booksellers in Town and
Country. 1768.

9tal 3824-2.2.5

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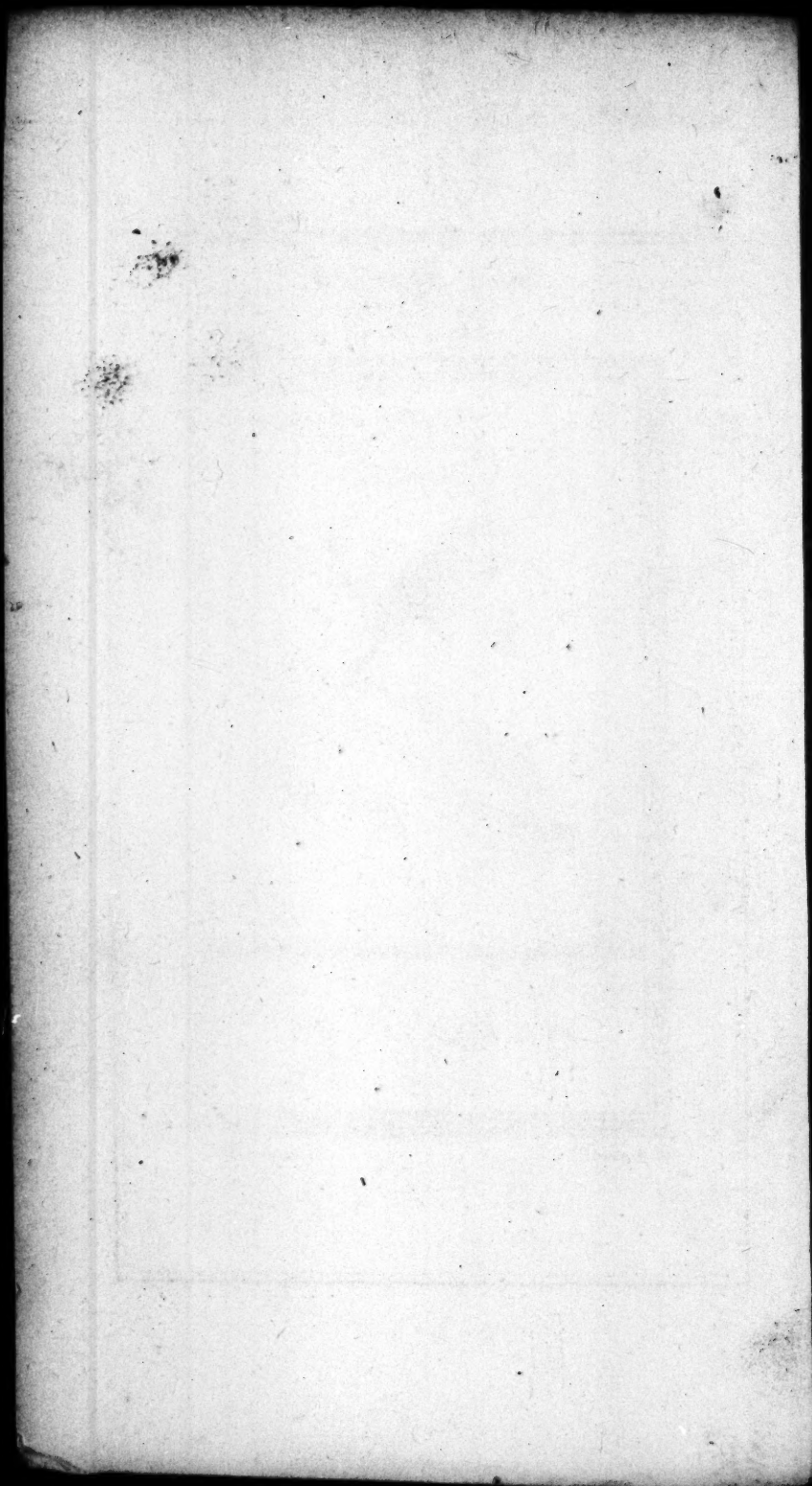
HIST. D'ITALIE.



MAZANIELLO.

F.D. pinx.

London delin.



T O

John Wilkes, Esq;

Member of Parliament

FOR THE

County of *Middlesex*.

S I R,

A LIFE of one of the greatest
and most renowned Assertors
of Liberty the World ever produced,
cannot be more properly dedicated,
than to him who has so greatly signalized
himself in its Cause, that his Name,
and that of LIBERTY are looked up-
on

on as synonymous, and pronounced in the same Breadth by every true BRITON, and sincere Well-wisher to his Country. MASANIELLO the Fisherman of Naples, hopes therefore to find a Patron in him who has made so glorious a Stand against the Encroachments of arbitrary Power, and asserted the Rights of his Fellow Subjects, against the Proceedings of Ministers, the abject Slaves of a Favourite and the Instruments of Injustice and Oppression.

No name ancient or modern is dearer to the Sons of Liberty than yours ; you are even a Martyr in its Cause, and to secure the Freedom of others have lost your own. The renowned Colonel LILBURN himself did not make a nobler Figure in the Confinement, in which he was kept during the of Life the arbitrary CROMWELL, after having by a bold and over-

overbearing Eloquence convinced an ENGLISH Jury, that his was a Government, against which no Treason could be Committed, and that they were Judges of Law as well as of Facts.

If this celebrated Asserter of Liberty did the highest Service to its Cause, by shewing an ENGLISH Jury the full extent of their Power, it deserves equally well of you, for having proved the Illegality of GENERAL WARRANTS, and stood forth the Champion of Freedom, though Confinement, loss of Estate and Dignity, and even Banishment itself were the Fruits of your noble and generous Efforts.

Firm to the Cause of Liberty, you have notwithstanding your past Sufferings, again stood forth in its Defence, and your generous Zeal has been Crowned by the Suffrages of
your

your Country, though still the same invenomed Rage and Malice pursues you. Upon you Liberty depends, and from your Fate awaits its own, and all its Well-wishers have the warmest Hopes, that notwithstanding the Delays of Law, and all the Persecutions of Oppression you will soon be its strenuous and glorious Defender in a BRITISH Parliament.

In vain did Calumny endeavour to fasten upon you the odious Imputation of applying to the F—— for the Government of Canada, your Conduct clearly proves, the Love of Liberty to be the actuating Principle that inspires you in all your Undertakings. There is not one amongst the illustrious Antients that has a juster claim to be considered as the Asserter of Liberty, or a truer Friend to human Kind. *Agricola* did not do more for his Country, when he proposed the Law which gave the Right
of

of appealing to the People upon all Occasions, than you did when you shewed the Illegality of General Warrants, and proved the Seizure of Papers to be destructive to the Liberty of the Subject. The Banishment of *Cicero*, who had been the Saviour of the *Roman* Commonwealth, did not reflect more Honor upon him, than yours has upon you, who have shewn an undaunted Spirit in Exile, or bring more Disgrace upon the abandoned *Clodio*, than yours has done upon the Tools of Ministerial Resentment.

May you, like him, again shine forth the Pride and Pillar of your Country, and in the Senate wield the Thunder of that Eloquence, by which you have already twice asserted the Cause of Liberty in the Court of King's Bench ; may you bring to Light the dark Intrigues of those who were concern'd in patching up an inglorious Peace, and fix the Liberty
of

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of Great Britain upon so firm a Basis,
that it may no more be liable
to be shaken by the Encroachments of
open violence, or sapped by the secret
Machination of Oppression. This
is the sincere Wish of every Friend
to Liberty, and of none, more than

S I R,

Your warm Admirer,

And zealous Well-wisher,

The EDITOR.



THE INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient Kingdom of *Naples*, after many Changes and Revolutions, submitted to the power of the House of *Austria*. The *Neapolitans* were a great Support to this Illustrious Family, and by large and voluntary Contributions, gave the utmost Evidence of Fidelity and Obedience to it. They relieved *Alphonso I.* by a free Imposition of ten Carlines upon every Fire thro' the whole Territory; five Carlines were added and settled upon *Ferdinand* and his Successors for ever; and by Degrees

A the

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the Tax was raised to 66 Carlines, which is paid to this Day, and amounts to Three Millions of Gold yearly. Nor was this sufficient to express their Affection to the *Austrian* Line; for they supplied *Charles V.* with ten Donatives that came to Five Millions. *Philip II.* was presented with thirty three Donatives, amounting to Thirty Millions; and *Philip III.* and *IV.* were assisted from the Year 1647, with a hundred Millions and more. But the People suffered by the Generosity of their Governours; they were oppressed with heavy Exactions; and at last all Commodities were tax'd to raise these Subsidies; the necessary Provisions for the Support of Life grew dear, which begot popular Discontents, which at length were so inflamed, that Tumults and Insurrections followed, attended with Murder and Bloodshed, and other outrages that are the natural consequences of popular Fury and Distraction.

His Majesty King *Philip IV.* of *Spain* was very sensible of the Affection of the *Neapolitans*, who without considering the Weakness and Inability of the People, resolved to present him with a
new

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new Donative: But all Commodities being already taxed, it was difficult to contrive a Method to raise the Money, so that they were obliged in the present Necessity to lay a Gabel (or Tax) upon Fruits: All sorts were included, as well dry as green; as Mulberries, Grapes, Figgs, Apples, Pears and Plumbs; whereby the common sort of People were deprived of their usual Nourishment and Support, and reduced to the lowest Misery and Distress. This Gabel was collected with Severity for seven Months; but it grew at last insupportable; insomuch, that many poor Wretches having sold all their Household Stuff, even the very Bed they used to lie upon, to pay Part of the Tax, were often obliged to prostitute their Wives and Daughters to the Ministers of the Gabels, only to obtain a short Respite for the Payment of the Remainder: The Kingdom, therefore, relolved to bear the Burden no longer, and to discharge herself not only of this, but of all other Taxes formerly imposed; and the Design had Success beyond Expectation. Nature has certainly fixed strong Impressions of Liberty in the Minds of Men: They

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are unwilling to bring their Necks under the Yoke; and tho' they are used with Moderation and Tenderneſs, they are ſcarce confined within the Bounds of Obedience; but Slavery and Oppreſſion make them mad; and Poverty begets Deſpair; ſo that *Tacitus* obſerved juſtly, that the People ruſh upon Precipices and Deſtruction, when heavy Loads and Exactions are laid upon them.

The Royal City of *Naples* is full of People, and many Families were undone by the Weight of Taxes; but this Gabel upon Fruit was the greateſt Grievance, and they reſolved not to indure it. They had often by their Agents, repreſented the Hardſhips of this Act, to the moſt Excellent the Duke of *Arcos*, Viceroy of the Kingdom; the Women and Children wou'd often meet him in the Street, and with miſerable Cries and Lamentations beg of him to releaſe the Gabel; and the Citizens of *Lavinaro*, and other Quarters, placed themſelves in Companies, as he paſſed upon a Day thro' the Market-Place, to pay his Devotion to the moſt holy Mother of *Carmine*, at the Church of the *Carmelites*, and
pe-

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petitioned him in a Body, to remit the Tax. The Viceroy seeing himself surrounded by such a Multitude of Men, Women and Children, who, with uplifted Hands, begg'd Relief, was forced, to appease them, to stop his Coach, and promise that in a day or two he would give them Satisfaction.

Upon the *Sunday* following, as he was going to the Church aforesaid, he observed a great Disorder and Murmuring among the People; who did not petition him as before, but peremptorily demanded a Release of the Tax, and threatened him in case of Denial: These were Presages of the Commotions that followed. The Viceroy was so terrified, that he promised to take off the Gabel, and returned with such Apprehensions of Fear to his Palace, that he wou'd venture no more to go to the Church of *Carmina*, and would not suffer the Festival of *St. John the Baptist* to be celebrated, that used to be annually solemnized at *Naples*; and this he did, to prevent any Disturbance that might arise from so vast a Concourse of People, when they were got together in one Place.

Some

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Some Time after, Father Don *Stefano Pera*, one of the most famous Preachers of the Order of the *Theatins*. who had several Congregations under his Care; by Means of which, his Influence was great over the People, assured the Viceroy, in a private Conference he had with him, that he could perceive by the Confessions that were made to him, that they were exasperated on Account of the Fruit-Tax, which seemed to be levelled at the poor People alone; whereas all former Gabels and Impositions were equally born by all the several Members of the State: He told his Excellency, 'twas to be feared that these Complaints were the Fore-runners of an Insurrection; and therefore prayed him to abolish the Gabel upon Fruit, telling him, that he made no Question, but as soon as the People should be exonerated of this Burden, they would return to their former Duty and Obedience.

Yet, notwithstanding this wholesome Advice, the Viceroy, who was naturally indolent, and unfixed in his Resolutions, neglected doing any thing
in

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in this Affair, thinking it would drop of itself ; But he was greatly mistaken; for the Populace, enraged, that the Gabel contrary to the Promise given them, still continued, began to grow outrageous ; they now proceed to Action ; and upon a Night, they set Fire to a Baracca of Powder, in the Market-place, where the Fruit Tax was exacted ; this they did again, and the Damage was afterwards repaired at the publick Charge.

The Incendiaries were at Work to enrage and blow up the Fire ; sharp and bitter Investives, full of popular Grievances, were published and dispersed ; the publick Officers were threatened with Ruin and Death ; and these insolent Libels were fixed in the most publick Places of the City.

But what gave the greatest Encouragement to the Rioters, was the Example of the *Sicilians*, especially those of *Palermo*, who had by Force of Arms and popular Insurrections, obtained from the most Excellent the Marquis of *Velez*, Viceroy of that Kingdom, a Release of the principal Taxes, and a Moderation for the rest. He afterwards gave them a general Pardon for all Excesses and Outrages ;
for

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for opening of Prisons, for Murders, Thefts, for taking up Arms in the Country, and other Offences, so that the People of *Naples* taking Courage from the Success of their Neighbours, thought they had a Right to the same Treatment, and insisted upon their Merits, pleading, that they were a free-born, People, and had by their Donatives, contributed largely to the Support and Grandeur of the *Spanish* Monarchy.

There was two Acts of Grace published in *Sicily*, in Favour of the People.

HIS Excellency by this present Act, to be always in Force, does take off and abolish to Perpetuity, the Tax upon Meal, Wine, Oil, Flesh, and Cheese, throughout all this City and Territory of *Palermo* for ever.

In *Palermo*, this 21st of May, 1647.
The Marquiss of Velez.

Subscribed by all the Officers of the Patrimony, and likewise by the Civil and Criminal Court, and by the principal Notary of the Kingdom.

T H E

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THE Prisons of the Vicaria being this Night broke open, and the Prisoners set at Liberty, and his Excellency being sensible, that the Prisoners therein contained were innocent, he does by this present Act pardon all and every one of the said Prisoners; and also his Excellency does acquit and pardon those who were found unreleased in the said Prisons: His Excellency does moreover give Grace and Pardon upon the Word and Faith of a King, to all the said Prisoners, as well for the Delinquency of Flight, as for all other Delinquencies for which they were imprisoned.

The Marquis of Velez.

Don Livo Pente, President of Justice.

These Privileges and Immunities obtained by the Sicilians, spirited up the People of Naples, who resolved to recover the same Freedom; and you could not pass the Streets without hearing, *What, are not we as valuable Subjects as those of Palermo? Are not we equally formidable and brave, if we could but unite to redress our Grievances?*

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Grievances ? Let us lie no longer under our Burdens : Death is more acceptable than Misery : To Arms ; To Arms : Let us rise as one Man, and that instantly : There is nothing like the present Moment ; our time is precious ; Delays may breed Danger. The Streets rung with these and such mutinous Expressions ; and the same Ferment was kept up in Clubs and Cabals, where People met and gave Vent to their Passions, by threatening their Governours, and encouraging one another to shake off their Chains, and recover themselves into a Free State. The Viceroy was soon made acquainted with these Disorders ; and finding Matters growing ripe for an Insurrection, frequently assembled the six Quarters or Precincts of the City, consisting of the fifth Part of the Gentry, and the sixth of the People ; to advise against the Dangers that threatened, and by all Means to take off the Gabel upon Fruits, which was the greatest Grievance. This Proposal was very agreeable to the *Populace* ; and had it immediately been executed, would have prevented the Calamities that followed ; but because it would have been prejudicial

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adicial to the Farmers, the Design had no Success : For these Publicans used all their Interest with the Visitor-General of the Kingdom, to prevail upon the Viceroy, to continue the Tax 'till the Month of *August* following ; and to this End, they presented his Lady with Fifteen Thousand Ducats. The Visitor, not able to resist the Gold, persuaded the Viceroy to continue the Tax notwithstanding his Promise ; and for his own private Advantage, insinuated that it would reflect upon his Honour, to submit to the Insolent Importunities of a Mob, consisting of a few Rascally Fellows, who made all the Noise to throw every Thing in Confusion, that they might the better fish in troubled Waters ; and therefore he advised him to repair the Toll-house for Fruit, that was burned down ; which he did, but resolved at the same Time to take off the Tax, and find out a Way to qualify the Heats of the discontented People on the one Side, and the Nobility, Gentry and Merchants of *Naples* on the other, who had advanced to the Publick upon that Gabel, above Six Hundred Thousand Crowns on Account of the Capital Million, and
Eighty

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Eighty five Thousand Crowns of annual Rent.

This Healing Scheme was told abroad to the Disadvantage of the Government; and the jealous Populace suspected, that in the Place of the Gabel upon Fruit, a new Tax was to be levied upon Corn and Wine, which threw them into the utmost Rage; and they gave out, that they would sooner die than suffer such Impositions, and insisted, that the Gabel upon Fruit should be quite abolished, and no new Burden laid, to pay off the Debt that was contracted upon it.

Affairs being in this Posture, and every Thing concerning to a Rebellion, an Opportunity unexpectedly offered upon the 7th of *July*, in the Year 1647, that fully answered the Purpose. The Account that I shall give of it, will proceed regular from Day to Day, and nothing shall be related, but what comes from Authority and good Credentials; that so surprizing an Event may appear exactly in the Manner it was brought about; and be faithfully transmitted, for the Improvement and Information of Posterity.

T H E



THE
HISTORY
OF THE
RISE and FALL
OF
MASANIELLO,
THE
FISHERMAN of *Naples.*



Young Fellow, about 24
Years old, happened to
live in a Corner of the
great Market-Place of *Na-*
ples, of a sprightly, active
Disposition, pleasant and humorous, of
a confident bold Address, and of a
middle Stature, black-eye'd, sharp, and
B piercing,

piercing, his Body rather lean than fat, with short cropped Hair, and a Mariner's Cap upon his Head: He wore long Linnen Slops or Drawers, a blue Waistcoat, and went bare-foot; but he had a daring, enterprizing Countenance, and a good Share of stern Resolution and rough Courage, as the Consequences will soon shew. He got his Living by angling for small Fish with a Cain, Hook, and Line, and sometimes he bought Fish in the Market, and retail'd them to his Neighbours who lived near him; in short, he was one of those whom the *Neapolitans* call *Pescivendoli*: The Name of this poor Fellow was *Tomaso Aniello* of *Amalfi*, but vulgarly and by Contraction called *Masaniello*. He lived in a Corner of the Market-Place, and it strangely happened, that under one of the Windows of his House, were fixed the Arms and the Name of *Charles V.* of a very antient standing; and this was understood to be a mysterious Presage of what happen'd afterwards; that this Retailer of Fish, as he would often say pleasantly himself, should restore the City to a State of Exemption and Liberty, and re-
cover

cover and establish the Charter of Privileges, that were granted by that great and invincible Monarch to the People of *Naples*.

Give me Leave to observe upon this Occasion, that about an Hundred Years since, in the Year 1547, (as *John Antonio* gives the Account in his *Neapolitan History*) there was a violent Disturbance under the Administration of *Don Pero de Toledo*, occasioned by the Tribunal of the *Holy Inquisition*, which *Philip II.* designed to introduce. There started up at that Time a *Masaniello*, who put himself at the Head of the Mob; he was a *Sorrentine* and a Banditto Captain, and was principally concerned in raising and keeping up the Tumults, but though the Nobility, at that Time, engaged and acted in Concert with the People, those Com-motions were attended with no great Misfortunes, nor was the Ferment of any long Continuance. And if the Nobles and the People had united at this Time, it would certainly have prevented many of the Calamities that followed through the Heat and Violence on both Sides. For how can the Commonwealth suffer more than by the

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Discord and Dissention of the Inhabitants? What was the Ruin of *Carthage*, but the two violent Factions of the *Barchiniani* and the *Hannoniani*? What was the Cause of a War in *France* for above Sixty Years, but the Contention between the Houses of *Burgundy* and *Orleans*? What occasioned so much Desolation to the Kingdom of *England*, when so much Blood was spilt, and so many dreadful Battles were fought, wherein Eighty Princes of the illustrious Blood were slain, but the Faction kept up between the Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*? And what confounded and destroyed the Happiness and Tranquillity of the *Florentine* Republick, but the Difference between the Families of *Bianchi* and *Neri*? In short, so destructive as a Fever is to the Body natural, so fatal is Sedition and Tumult to a City or a Kingdom. A City is fitly compared to a Ship, and Divisions are the Leaks, through which, while the Mariners are quarrelling and contending one with the other, a Torrent of Water rushes in and drowns all. The wise Pilot who has the Government, should provide seasonably for the stopping of those Leaks, and make up

up the Breaches before it be too late. He should be the sole Director, and trust no-body with the Helm, at least, not commit it to factious and turbulent Spirits, who are unable to steer in bad Weather; and, in case of Distress, are fitter to promote, than prevent a Shipwreck.

This *Masaniello*, from a Kind of natural Craft, observing that Murmurs and Discontent prevailed in every Corner of the Town, and that the People were ripe for Disturbance, took this Opportunity to publish his Designs. Upon a Day (which was about four Days before the most holy Festival of *Corpus Domini*) he was going Home in a violent Passion; and it being in his Way to pass by the Church of *Carminé*, where the famous *Banditto Perone*, with two more of his Companions, had fled for the Benefit of Refuge, one of them asked him, What was the Matter that he was so angry, and so much out of Humour? He replied in a great Rage, *I'll be bound to be hang'd, if I don't see Justice done upon those Villains; I'll put an End to the Oppressions upon the People of Naples, or I'll lose my Life.* They fell a laugh-

ing, and jeer'd him, saying, *Thou art a rare Fellow to set up for a Patriot! Thou pretend to right the City!* Masaniello answered, *You may laugh, and be as merry as you please; but I swear by the living God, if I had two or three of my Mettle that would stand by me, you shall see what Work I'd make with the Rogues:* They asked him, *What Method he would take? Will you join with me?* Says he. They told him, they would with all their Hearts; they shook Hands upon it, and, having vowed to go through with the Cause they had undertaken, they parted, and Masaniello, went about his Business.

But he had not been long at Home before he met with fresh Provocation; for some of the Officers of the Customs having accidentally met his Wife in the Street, as she was carrying a small Quantity of contraband Flour in her Apron, they laid Hold on her, and hauled her to Prison; and, without having the least Regard to the Tears and Intreaties of her Husband, would not let her go, till he had sold all his Goods, to pay a Fine of an Hundred Ducats, which was the Price they had set on her

her Liberty. This barbarous Extortion struck so deep into the Heart of this young Man, who was naturally cholerick, that he immediately meditated upon the Means of being revenged; and considering how the People were enraged by the Gabel upon Fruit, he made Use of that Pretence, and running up and down among the Fruit-Shops that were in that Quarter, complained loudly of the Cruelty of the Tax, and engaged them to come in a Body to the Market-Place, and there declare publickly to the Country Fruiterers, That it was in vain for them to bring their Fruit to Market, for they would not buy one Basket till the Gabel was taken off.

While this was doing the Tumult increased; and the Noise of it was carried to all the Shops in the Town; and to suppress the Disorder, *Andreas Anaclerio*, Elect of the People, who was chosen that very Day, repaired with all Haste to the Market-Place, where the Fruit was exposed to Sale; and finding every Thing in Confusion, and the Shop-Keepers crying out, that they would buy no Gabel'd Fruit, he used soft and mollifying Words, and

with much difficulty perswaded them to pay the Gabel for that one Time, and it should be exacted of them no more: Which, at last, they complied to do, and so the Matter was adjusted, and the People returned home. *Masaniello* finding himself disappointed, and that nothing was to be done there, still continued his Purpose; and running about the Streets to every Quarter of the Town, he cried out, *No Gabel, no Gabel*; some laugh'd, and took him for a Madman, but his Words made a deep Impression upon others, as will appear by the Event.

When he came home to his Stall in the Market-Place, he luckily found a great Number of Boys got together; and when he had insinuated himself among them, he made his Speech, and inveighed bitterly against the Cruelty of the Government: *Look ye here,* says he, *my Lads, how we are ridden, Gabel upon Gabel, 36 Ounnces the Loaf of Bread, 22 the Pound of Cheese, 6 Granas for Beef, 6 Granas for Pulse, 9 Granas for Veal, 2 Granas the Pint of Wine; Are these Things to be endured? No, my Boys; Get my Words by Hears, and Sound them through every Street*

Street of the City, but say nothing against the King of Spain; cry only, Let God live, let the Lady of Carmine live; let the Pope live, long live the King of Spain, but let our wicked Government die, let the cursed Government die: The Boys, when they had got their Lesson perfect, followed his Directions, and dispersing themselves in every Corner, cried along the Streets as they were taught, and had the Boldness to go to the Palace, and cry out under the Nose of the Viceroy of the Kingdom: And indeed, the Complaint was in some Measure just, though the Method of Redress was criminal, for at that Time every Commodity above named bore the same Price that *Masaniello* set upon it. This Tumult of the Children set the City in an Uproar, and their Noise made different Impressions on the People; some fell a laughing at the Odness of the Thing, but others began to be in Pain for the Consequences. The Boys were often asked what was the Matter, and who set them at Work? They answered they were the Scholars of *Masaniello*, the Fisherman: And when his Neighbours jested upon him about his Conduct, as

a Man perfectly distracted, and out of his Wits, he replied seriously; *You may laugh at me now, but you shall soon see what this Foal Masaniello can do; let me alone, and give me my Way, and if I don't set you free from all your Taxes, and all the Slavery that now grinds you to Death, may I be cursed, and called a Villain for ever.* This frantic Answer confirmed them the more that the Man was raving, and out of his Senses; but Masaniello no Way affected with this Treatment, attended to his Business, and immediately listed, and took the Names of the Boys that followed him, about the Age of 16, 17, and 18, till he completed a Company of 500; but still Numbers came in, and he went on enrolling till he made up a Regiment of 5000, all choice and sturdy Lads; and giving them their Lesson against the next Day, he dismissed them for that Time, giving every one of them a small weak Cane in their Hands, and appointing them to be ready the next Morning, and he would be their General, and lead them on to Glory and Liberty.

The Devotion of the Neapolitans to the Lady of Carmine, is so great and
so

so universal, that they do not only express it by the Solemnity, with which they celebrate her Festival every Year, on the 16th Day of *July*, but also by several public Rejoicings and Holydays previous to it. Among other Things, it was a Custom upon these Days, to observe a certain Ceremony, which was, that a Sort of Castle or Tower of Wood was erected in the Midst of the great Market-Place, and a Company of Boys, who represented the *Turks*, used to defend it, whilst another Set of Lads pelted and battered it with Sticks and Fruit; and this drew together a great Concourse of People of the meaner Sort, who were much delighted with this mobbish Diversion, which indeed seldom ended without Quarrelling and Bloodshed.

The Morrow, being the 7th of *July*, came, which was a *Sunday*; and the Castle being then to be stormed, according to Custom, *Masaniello* failed not to come to the Market-Place, with his Brigade after him. It was about the Hour when the Country Fruiterers used to bring their Fruit to the Market, to pay the Gabel that was set upon it; and such great Quantities
were

were generally brought, that the Officers had a great deal of Trouble in collecting the Tax, and in the Hurry some of the Baskets were overturned, and the Fruit thrown into the Dirt, which served the Boys to scramble for; and a multitude of them always got together for that Purpose. But upon this Day, the Country Fruiterers sold not a Basket of Fruit, for the Costermongers of the Town had associated, and resolved not to lay out a Farthing; because they would not encourage the Gabel; and declared they would not buy an Apple till the Tax was abolished. The Countrymen having no Market for their Goods, were enraged, and fell upon the Shopkeepers that were near them with Cudgels; and so sharp an Encounter there was, for they fought it out stoutly on both Sides: Besides, the Citizens wanted to be supplied with Fruit, as usual, and there being none but sorry stale Stuff, - that was bought the Day before, they grew uneasy and tumultuous, and the whole City was in a Heat and Confusion. The Account of these Disorders was carried to *Zufia Grassiero*, Regent of the City, who immediately gave Orders to *Anaclerio*, the Elect of the

the People, to take a proper Course with the Rioters, and put an End to the Commotions: He came directly to the Market-Place with some Attendants about him, and having used all the Arts of Threatning and Persuasion to little Purpose, for the Tumult ran high, and the two Parties were fiercely engaged, he at last interceded for a short Cessation of Arms, which was granted, and each Party giving an Account of their Case, he determined in Favour of the Townsmen, and calling the Country Fruiterers, *Foreigners* and *Encroachers*, (most of them being of the City of *Puzzuolo*) he rebuked them severely for the Disturbance they had made, and declared, that if they came there again and broke the Peace, he would have them bastinado'd to the Purpose, and condemned to the Gallies

Among the Countrymen of *Puzzuolo*, there was a noisy Fellow, a near Kinsman of *Masaniello's*, who was deeply concern'd in the Riot; for the Matter, it seems, was concerted before, between him and *Masaniello*, and he acted up to his Instructions; he not only set the Country and Town together by the Ears, but finding that Fruit

bore a very low Price, and after he had payed the Gabel and Carriage, there would remain but a Trifle for himself, he affected to be in a violent Passion, and kicking down with his Foot two Baskets of Fruit, he bawled out, *God gives us plenty, and our cursed Governours give us Famine: Let the Fruit rot and perish, it is not worth picking up, let them take it as will.* Masaniello stood ready, watching the Opportunity with his Boys, who fell scrambling for the Fruit; and every Thing falling out as he expected, he ran in among the Children and Mob, and cried out, *Without Gabel, without Gabel: Anaclerio*, surprized at this Insolence that was acted before his Face threatened to have him whipt, and then sent to the Gallies: Upon which, the Fruiterers, and the People that were there, pelted him with Figs and Apples, and other Fruit, till his Face was swelled, and his Eyes almost out of his Head: But *Masaniello* not yet satisfied, took up a Stone as big as he could well manage, and throwing it at *Anaclerio*, hit him full in the Breast. His Militia of Boys followed the Example of their Leader, and fell upon

upon the Elect with stones; who with great Difficulty breaking his Way in a Coach thro' the Crowd, drove away to the Church of *Carminé*, where he found a Felucca, and got safe to the Palace, otherwise he had certainly been torn in Pieces, or stoned to Death by the Boys.

Upon this Success, and encouraged by these hopeful Beginnings, the Rabble flocked together in great Numbers, as well in the Market-place as in other Quarters of the City: They now talked loudly, and without Reserve, of the Oppressions they endured; protesting and publishing in every Street, that they would *be no more Beasts of Burden to be rid by domineering Governours, who sucked their very Blood: And as for Taxes, they would never pay a Farthing more.* But still they pretended to be *mighty* loyal, for the general Cry was, *Long live the King of Spain, but let the cursed Government die.* The Fury and Violence of the Populace still increasing, *Masaniello* put himself at the Head of them: He was followed by an infinite Number of Boys, and all sorts of loose People; some were armed with Sticks, others with

with Pikes and Javelins, and what came first to Hand, or which they had plundered out of the Tower of the *Carmine*: And thus surrounded with his ragged Regiments, he leaped up on the highest Table among the Fruiterers, and demanding Silence, he made this Harangue: *Rejoice, my dear Companions and Countrymen; give God Thanks, and the most gracious Virgin of Carmine, that the Hour of our Redemption, and the Time of our Deliverance draweth near: This poor Fisherman, bare-footed as he is, shall, as another Moses, who delivered the Israelites from the cruel Rod of Pharaoh, the Egyptian King, free you from all Gabels and Impositions that were ever laid upon you. It was a Fisherman, I mean St. Peter, who reduced the City of Rome from the slavery of the Devil to the Liberty of Christ; and the whole World followed that Deliverance, and obtained their Freedom from the same Bondage: Now another Fisherman, one Masaniello, I am the Man, shall release the City of Naples, and with it a whole Kingdom, from the cruel Yoke of Tolls and Gabels. Shake off, therefore, from this*

this moment the Yoke ; be free, if you have but Courage from those intolerable Oppressions, under which you have hitherto groaned. To bring this glorious End about, for myself, I don't value if I am torn to Pieces, and dragged up and down the City of Naples through all the Kennels and Gutters that belong to it. Let all the Blood in my Body spin chearfully out of these Veins ; let this Head dance from these Shoulders by the fatal Steel, and be perched up over this Market-place upon a Pole to be gazed at, yet I shall die contented and glorious ; it will be Triumph and Honour sufficient for me, to think that my Blood and Life were sacrificed in so worthy a Cause, and that I became the Saviour of my Country.

This marvellous Piece of Oratory was received by the People with universal Applause as it dropt'd from his Mouth ; they declared they were ready to follow where-ever he would lead them ; they were mad to be put upon Action ; And as a Testimony of their good Affection to the Cause, they immediately threw a lighted Torch into the House that joined to the Toll-House for Fruit and

they were both in a few Moments consum'd to the Ground, with all the Books of Accounts that belong'd to the Tax, and many Commodities that belong'd to the Farmers of the Customs, that were there laid up.

This Action alarmed the whole City, the Mob increas'd in every Street, the Citizens shut up their Shops, for Fear of being plunder'd; and many of them joined in the Riot, that they might have a Share of the Spoil. All things were in the utmost Confusion; the People divided themselves into several Companies, and bent their Course to several Quarters where the Gabel-Houses lay; these they attacked: The Toll-Houses of Fruit, of Corn, of Flesh, Fish, Salt, Wine, Oil, Cheese, Silk, of every Thing that was either to be eaten or worn, were broke open, not one of them was spared; they took out of them all the Books of Accounts and Entrance that belonged to the several Gabels, and all the Furniture, as well of the Farmers as others, and every Thing that was pledg'd, or otherwise; as fine Hangings, Chairs, Arms, great Quantities of Money, with other valuable and rich Moveables, Forms, Tables, Stools, all was thrown

thrown into a great Fire made of Straw for that Purpose, and consum'd to Ashes in the Street. There is one thing remarkable, that in this general Confusion, there was one strict Point of Order observ'd, that in rifling those Houses of the best of Furniture, and great Sums of Money, no Man dared lay his Hand upon any Thing for his own Use, but all was dedicated to the Fire, and destroy'd utterly ; *because, they said, the Wealth and Furniture of the Rich, was gotten by squeezing the Poor ; and therefore it was the Heart's Blood of the People, and not to be spared upon any Account, or for any Purpose whatsoever.*

The Mob all this while grew confident and audacious, having met with no Opposition ; they increased every Hour, and soon made up the Number of 10000. Depending upon their Strength, they boldly advanced towards the Palace of the Viceroy, many of them insolently carrying Loaves of Bread upon the Top of their Pikes, to signify the Dearness of Bread, upon Account of the Tax laid upon Corn, a Loaf not weighing above 22 Ounces ; the Cry still continuing, but with greater Vehemence,
Long

Long live the King of Spain, and let the cursed Government perish.

The Posse of Boys, consisting of about 2000, marched in the Van with *Masaniello* at the Head of them, and to make the Cavalcade the more affecting, every one tied to the Top of his Cane a sort of Flag of black Cloth; and walking solemnly and dolefully along, they cried out in a most lamentable Tone, —

Have Compassion upon those poor Souls suffering in Purgatory, who being unable any longer to endure the barbarous Exactions, and the insupportable Weight of so many Grievances, are contriving to ease and redress themselves: O dear Brothers, join with us in this good Design! O Sisters, lend us your Assistance, to promote so just, so necessary an Undertaking, and so profitable for the Publick Good! This pitiful Complaint they whined as they went through many Streets, till coming to the Prison of St. James, they violently broke in, and setting the Prisoners at Liberty, they took them into present Service and Protection.

Being come to the Palace, and placing themselves under the Window of the Viceroy, they began to be rude and noisy

noisy, and demanded positively, to be freed not only from the Tax upon Fruit but from all other Gabels whatever; especially that laid upon Corn. The Viceroy, surprized with this Attempt, shew'd himself in the Balcony, and complied with them so far as to abolish wholly the Gabel upon Fruit, and Part of the Corn-Tax only: But this Indulgence rather intraged than pacify the People: They cried out, they would not be relieved by Halves, but the Whole should be taken off; bawling out still, *Long live the King of Spain, but cursed be the Government.* Then they pressed hard upon the Palace-Gate, which they forced in Defiance of the *German* and *Spanish* Guards: And a Party of them attempting to go up Stairs to speak with the Viceroy himself, and give him a more particular Account of their Grievances, his Excellency sent positive Orders to the Guard not to oppose them, but suffer them to come up. But in the Hurry and Confusion that Order was not obeyed, because it could with Difficulty be heard; and the Soldiers thought to make good their Post against the People. But all Resistance was vain; for the Mob forced all Opposition; and
with

with scarce any thing in their Hands but Canes and Clubs, (a Thing almost incredible) and with violent Outcries, they rushed in, and imperiously demanded Audience of the Viceroy: But he was seasonably got out of the Way. They used the *Spanish* and *German* Guards with great Insolence and Contempt, and pressed upon them so hard, that they were afraid of their Lives; and to secure themselves, they abandoned their Post, took to their Heels, and made the best of their Way to their Quarters.

The Palace on the Outside was now without Guard and Defence: The Gate was open, and the People entered, The Door of the great Hall they found shut, but they soon broke it open without Difficulty: But attempting to enter the Chamber of Audience, they found there a strong guard of *Dutch* Halberdeers, and a Party of *Spaniards* who made all possible Resistance: But the Torrent was not to be stopped: The Weight of the People bore down all: They seiz'd the Guard, and made them deliver their Halberds, and other Weapons; so that the Coast being clear'd, they abated of their Violence, and examined leisurely
one

one Room after another, till they came at last into the very Apartment where the Viceroy, for Safety had locked himself up in a Closet, They knocked at the Door; but Admittance being denied, they attempted by Force of Halberds and other Instruments to break it open: It stood two or three Shocks, for it was well fortified within by two strong Iron Bolts: But at length the Door was split in Pieces, and there was the Viceroy, who had instantly been torn to Pieces, if he had not been conveyed away by Stratagem, by the Duke *di Castel di Sangro*, and the most noble *Don Farrant de Carraciolo*, who some Way or other got him out of the Hands of the Mob, who certainly intended to sacrifice him to their Resentments. In this Manner, the Viceroy escaped the fatal Blow that was designed him; and retiring to a Place where he found some Gentlemen of his Attendants, he thought he was not secure, unless he could find a Way into the Castle, where his Dutches had seasonably withdrawn a little before with her Children, her Ladies and Relations. He sent to see if there was no Danger in the Attempt, and understanding

ing by the Messenger, that the Dutcheſs that very Hour had taken up the Draw-bridge, he changed his Mind, and reſolved to leave the Place where he was, and take Refuge by flying into the next Church, which was dedicated to St. *Lewis*, where there was a Friary of St. *Franciſco de Paola*: But firſt he looked out at the Window, and obſerving a great Number of People aſſembled below he gave them Notice that he was there. He ſpoke to them in the moſt obliging Manner, and gave them to underſtand, that he was willing to remit the Gabel upon Fruit, and give them Satisfaction to the utmoſt: And to convey his Intentions to them with the greater Certainty, he threw ſmall Schedules of Paper among them, wherein he gave it under his Hand, that the Frutt-Tax ſhould ceaſe, and Part of the Tax upon Corn. But this Propoſal was rejected by the People with Indignation; who raiſed a violent Outcry, and making Signs to him at the Window, inſiſted that he ſhould come down, and treat perſonally with them. The Viceroy being afraid leſt the Houſe ſhould be fired about his Ears, reſolved to come down, and if poſſible, get into the Church of St. *Lewis*,

Lewis, before the Mob knew any thing of his Design.

In the mean time, that Party of the Rabble that got into the Palace, determin'd to strip and gut every Room of it. They tore down the Tapestry and the Glasses, and running from one Room to another with great Fury, they carried off all the Tables, Chairs, Skreens, and other Moveables of Value; and throwing them out into the Yard, they made a Pile of them, and set them on Fire, and burnt them to Ashes. But yet (which was very remarkable in the Heighth of such popular Distraction) they did not so much as attempt to enter the Apartment of the most Eminent Cardinal *Trivulcio*, who lived in that Palace, and was at home at the same time, under the greatest Apprehensions of being mob'd to Death.

The Viceroy design'd to come down, in order to his Escape; and for that Purpose had a Coach with two Horses provided at a proper Place to carry him off. *St. Lewis's Church* was at no great Distance, and therefore he apprehended no great Difficulty in the Design: But he had no sooner stepp'd into the Coach, but some of the Mob spied him, and stop-

ped him. He began now to think his Life in Danger; especially when the People forced open the Coach-Doors, and presenting two naked Swords to his Breast, they threatned him with present Death, unless he would take off the Taxes. He promised them, no Doubt, under that Distress, and perswaded them mildly to lay down their Arms and return home. But this gave them no manner of Satisfaction: They would hearken to nothing, unless he would come out of the Coach and treat with them openly; and then somewhat might be done towards quieting the Troubles. His Excellency was forced to comply, and then the Mob began to use him Civilly, and with some Respect. Some of them with great Zeal and Submission kissed his Hands: and others upon their Knees intreated him, *Most Excellent Sir, for the Love, and Passion of God, disburden us of these heavy Gabels, which prey upon our very Hearts Blood; let us have no more Slavery; let us breathe.* The Viceroy answered with all imagiable Condescension, and gave them his Word that all Taxes should cease from that Moment. But though he was outwardly treated with tolerable Regard, and in some

some sort suitably to his Character; yet he did not think himself safe, so long as he was surrounded with such a confused and disorderly Multitude: Therefore, to divert the People, he threw among them some Hundred *Sequins* of Gold, which he had provided for that Purpose, in Case of necessity. This project had the designed Effect: For tho' many of them would not be blinded by the Bait, and cried out, that they did not want to be relieved by scattering his Money among them, but to be freed from the Oppression of Gabels; yet, while the greatest Part of them were scrambling for the Gold, his Excellency stepp'd into his Coach, and got safe into the Sanctuary of St. *Lewis*. And he immediately commanded all the Doors of the Church to be shut, as well as of the Monastery that belonged to it.

The People that were busy about the Money, perceiving that the Viceroy had slipp'd out of their Hands, were perfectly outrageous, and resolved instantly to pull down the Monastery. They went thither in a Body, and meeting with no Opposition, they batter'd down the first great Gate, and designed to serve the rest in the same Manner; demanding vi-

violently to be released from the Gabels; and insisting, that his Excellency should deliver to them an Instrument in Writing under his Hand and Seal, that he would abolish their Taxes, and confirm their Privileges to them and their Posterity. The Mob went on with their Work in pulling down the Gates: And lest the Monastery should be pulled down, the Viceroy consider'd how he would put a Stop to their Outrages; the doing of which would be difficult, their Numbers increasing every moment. At length he thought it Prudence to open the Window, and speak to them, which he did; persuading them to give over such violent Methods, to disperse and go home, assuring them, that there should be no more Taxes, but every Thing complied with to their Satisfaction. Nevertheless, the People being jealous they should be deluded, they took no manner of Notice of the Promises of the Viceroy, but continued to batter and pull down another Gate, which was soon done; and so without more Obstruction, they immediately enter'd the Monastery.

Things being in this Agitation, the most Eminent Cardinal *Filomarino*, Archbishop of *Naples*, used all possible Endeavours

deavours to appease the Populace. This most Reverend Prelate was always zealous and active in his Pastoral Charge, and devoted all his Labours to the Service of God and the Good of his Church: He was sensible what Calamities attend upon such Disorders, and that Discord and Sedition among the People, had contributed more to the Ruin and Desolation of Cities and Kingdoms, than all the Stratagems and hostile Attempts of foreign and professed Enemies. And therefore, to prevent the Miseries of Fire and Sword that must necessarily ensue, he went in his Coach to the Monastery, and applyed himself with great Courtesy and Condescension to the Mob, intreating them, that they would desist from such violent and unjustifiable Methods, and submit to have their Grievances redress'd in a legal Way. They answered, but respectfully enough, that they could not be satisfied till the Viceroy had deliver'd to them the Instrument they had demanded, which was to confirm a Release of all the Taxes, especially those laid upon Corn and Fruit. His Eminence replied, that he would be an Advocate for them, and endeavour to obtain it: And so going out of his Coach, he went

in Person through the thickest of the People, who made Way for him, till he came to another Gate that was in immediate Danger of being pulled down by the Mob. But as soon as they saw the Archbishop, the Heat of their Rage was abated; for they professed the utmost Reverence and Veneration for him: Yet notwithstanding, they insisted upon a Redress of their Grievances, and that the Taxes might be abolish'd. The Archbishop promised to use his Interest, and engaged to bring them the Instrument signed and sealed as they desired. But considering that if he left the People, and waited in Person upon the Viceroy, they might return to the former Fury and Distraction; he thought it more prudential to send a Messenger to his Excellency, with an Excuse that he did not come himself, and desiring, that he would send the Instrument confirmed as it should be, with all possible Dispatch. The Charter was soon drawn up, signed, sealed, and sent to the Archbishop, with a Desire at the same Time, that he would deliver it with his own Hands to the People. He immediately stepped into his Coach, and holding the written Instrument in his Hand visibly, that every one might see

it, he drove away without Opposition, drawing the whole Body of the Mob after him all along *Toledo Street*; every one pressing towards the Coach to be satisfied what it contained. The Coach stopped in a convenient Place, and the Archbishop read out the Charter to the People; which was no sooner done, but they cried out one and all, that they were *cheated and imposed upon*; for, that *Instrument signified no more, than that the Gabel upon Fruit, and seven Carlines upon Wheat were taken off*: But they insisted, that *most, if not all of the other Taxes should be abolished*; especially those that were imposed since Charles V. The Archbishop perceiving that no healing Measures would be heard while the Mob continued in that Ferment, delivered the Instrument to the Head of the People, who was appointed for that purpose; and then retired to his Palace without Opposition.

The Mob who followed the Cardinal, finding they were cheated, hastened away to the great Market-place, where a great Multitude of their followers were got together; and, having given an Account of the Contents of the Instrument, they came to a Resolution, that it was but
Satisf-

Satisfaction in Part; that their Grievances were still unredressed; and therefore, it was necessary for the common Defence of the Faithful People of Naples, (for this was their distinguishing Title) to form themselves into regular Bodies; and to list a sufficient Number of Men, that would recover their Rights, and procure them a total Discharge from Taxes. then they broke up; and a Party of them, consisting of Thousands of Men and Boys, marched directly to the Palace; and another Company took their Way towards the Monastery of St. Lewis, and resolved to force open the Gates, which by this time were fortified against them. The first Attack they made was upon that Part of the Monastery where many Lords and Ladies, and Persons of the first Quality had taken Shelter: But they were vigorously repulsed by the *Spanish* Guards; and particularly, a Captain laid about him furiously with his Sword, and the Soldiers fired upon them with their Muskets; which did Execution among the Rabble, and many of them lay dead upon the Spot. During this Encounter, the Ladies had Time to retire, and to secure themselves in the Friars Cells; and

the Viceroy, by the Assistance of the Abbot of the Convent, found an Opportunity to scale the Walls, and got safely into the Monastery of *Jesuits*; from whence he was soon removed by some of his *Spaniards*, who carried him in an old Sedan, and lodged him in the Castle of *St. Elmo*.

It was soon noised abroad, that the Viceroy had made his Escape out of the Monastery, which prevented any further Outrage upon that Place: For, the Rabble drew off together, and marched directly to the Palace, which they resolved to seize into their own Hands, by disarming the *Spaniards* that kept the Guard: But they compounded, by delivering to the Rabble their Drums and Half Pikes; but their Swords and Musquets they were allowed to keep. In this Distraction they left the Palace, and dispersed themselves to all Quarters of the City, where any of the *Spanish* Guards were set; whom they immediately attack'd, and took away their Arms. Then they marched into the Suburb of *Chiagia*, to the Palace of *Don Tiberio de Garaffa*, Prince of *Bisignano*, who was Field-Master, and Colonel-General of the Battalion of *Naples*. This Noble-

man,

man, by his Affability and good Qualities, had recommended himself to the Affection of the People, who perfectly adored him, and in his Exigency depended much upon his Protection and Advice. They addressed him with great Respect and Submission, and intreated him to be their Defender, and intercede for them with the Viceroy, that the cruel Oppression of the Taxes might be taken off; and their Privileges be confirmed to them, as they were established by Charles V.

But before the Prince of Bisignano could send his Answer to the People, a great Number of Men ran furiously to the Toll-House, where they exacted the Gabel upon Fruit at *Chiagia*, and immediately set Fire to the House, and burnt it down to the Ground, with all the Books of Accounts and Entries, Furniture and Goods that were in it. The Mob still increased by continual Supplies: The Suburbs were filled with the confused Multitude of People: And the Heads of them observing their Numbers divided them into two Squadrons, or rather into two Armies. By this time, the Prince of *Bisignano* came out among them on Horse-back. A Company of

of the lesser Boys drew up in a Circle about him, and cried, *No Gabels; no Taxes.* He desired them to *observe some Order, and not to ruin themselves and the City of Naples by such violent Proceedings; for nothing could be done in such Heat and Distraction.* And, as for the *Gabels*, he promised they should soon be taken off. But the People, no way satisfied, kept up the Cry, and conducting the Prince by the Palace and the Castle, and the most popular Streets of the City, they brought him at last to the great Market-place. Here were got together above fifty Thousand of the Rabble, all uniting in a general Outcry, *Down with the Gabels, down with the Gabels.* The Prince was astonished at the Fury of the Multitude, and concluded it impossible to appease them; He spoke to them with the greatest Courtesy, and assured them, of his *Inclinations to serve them*: But all to no purpose, till at last he considered that Religion might possibly make Impression upon their Minds; and the Church of the most Holy Lady of *Carmino* being conveniently at Hand, he led them thither; and placing himself upon an Eminence, from which he might be heard

heard, with a Crucifix in his Hands, he intreated them in the most solemn Manner: He prayed, exhorted and conjured them, *by the Passion and Love of God, and for the sake of the blessed Virgin his Patroness, that they would give over their Rage, and suffer their Affairs to be settled in a Regular Way:* He promised them, and gave his Oath for it, that he would intercede for them to the Viceroy, and obtain a Redress of their Grievances to their full Satisfaction. But the People, ever jealous of their Privileges, cried out, that *Words and Promisses were but Wind; and that they would never disperse, and let the Power slip out of their Hands, till the Taxes were abolished, and they were established in their Liberties.* The Prince finding their Fury was, not to be opposed, led them out of the Church again into the Market-place; and continued with them, conceiving that an Opportunity might offer when they would hearken to Reason, And he often applied to them for that Purpose, and assured them, *that he would make their Cause his own, which he would never give up, till the Peace and Privileges of the City were settled upon the Foot* they

they desired. But though they used him with all outward Respect; yet they were in two great a Ferment, to subside and grow cool by Persuasions only.

The Multitude increased every Moment; and fresh Recruits flocked in from all Corners of the City. This additional Strength made them more outrageous; and so they marched in a great Body, to the Prisons of *Santa Maria d'Agone*, and of *Santa Archangelo*; which they resolved to force and break open. The Keepers, assisted by a Company of Guards, attempted to resist; but they were soon bore down, and with great Difficulty got off with their Lives. The Gates flew open, which they immediatly unhinged and threw into the Street; and so a general Jail Delivery ensued; and all the Prisoners were set at Liberty. Then they fell to stripping the Rooms, and rifling what came to their Hands; and finding the Records and Court-Books, which contain'd the Proceedings against the Prisoners, they tore them in Pieces, and made a Fire of them, where they were burnt to

D Ashes.

Ashes. Thus they did, to the Prisons
 that belonged to the Manufactures of
 Wool and Silk; and notwithstanding
 the Reverence they professed to the
 Person of the Archbishop, yet they
 forced the Prison that was his Pec-
 liar; burnt the Journals of the Court,
 and the Prisoners were let out. They
 directed their Course next to the Pri-
 sons of the *Nunciatura* and of the
Ficaria, which they determined to
 force as they had done the rest: But
 some of them were against this Vio-
 lence; for they insisted, *that they*
were Royal Prisons, and formerly
had been Palaces of their Kings;
and therefore were to be treated
with more Respect. But this Argu-
 ment was rejected by the major Part
 of the Rabble, who attacked the Gates
 with their usual Fury. The Keepers
 and Wardens within, were prepared to
 receive them; for they expected a
 Visit from them, and so a sharp Ac-
 tion followed. But at last, with much
 Persuasion, the most excellent Prince
 of *Bisignano*, whom they thus obliged
 to go along with them, put an End
 to the Encounter; for he told them,

the

the Prisoners within, were none but Foreigners, Murderers, and Thieves; and to give Liberty to such Villains were to let loose a Cry of Wolves, who would soon return to their old Trade of Robbing and cutting of Throats.

Their next Attempt was dreadful; for they set no bounds to their Fury. They steered away from the Prisons which happened to escape, towards the *Dogana*, or Toll-House for Corn; and (which was terrible to behold) they carried Faggots upon their Backs, and Fire and Pitch in their Hands; and forcing the Gates they made a Pile and set all on Fire. The Building was soon consumed; but they would not stir off the Spot 'till all was reduced to Ashes. The Prince of *Bisignano* was astonished at their Rage, and used all possible Arts to prevent this Mischief. But what can oppose the Madness of an enraged Populace? His Arguments rather increased than abated the Distraction. This Exploit concluded in the Destruction of vast Quantities of Corn that was there laid up; great Sums of Money that belonged

longed to the Officers of the Toll-House; and all the Furniture and Household-Goods, which without Distinction perished in the Flames.

Having glutted themselves with this horrid Spectacle, they drew off, and went up to the Piazza of St. *Laurence's* Church. Hither the Prince of *Bisignano* followed them, though with no great Success : Yet he continued to use his Endeavours to restore Peace to the City : But the torrent was too strong to be opposed ; all Persuasion was lost, and confounded by the Noise of the Multitude ; whose Spirits were too enflamed, to be argued into Temper. They attempted to enter the Church, and so go into the Cloysters, which was the Way leading to the Steeple, where the great Bell hung : But they met with a strong Resistance by some Banditti within, who had fled there for Sanctuary : Two of them however fell a Sacrifice to the People's Rage, and were killed upon the Spot. The more sober Part of the Populace by this Time began to dread the Event, and to be in Pain for the Consequences that might follow : But they

they had no great Advantage at this Time, though indeed there were some Incendiaries got among them, who still kept up their Spirits, and added Fuel to the Flames. Among these particularly was a *Sicilian*, who seemed to be rather a Devil in human Shape than a Man; and dealt about him, as if he had been possessed by all the Furies of Hell. It is incredible almost, with what Fury and Intrepidity this Fellow behaved: He was foremost in all Danger; and was tearing and pulling down with the Flames raging about his Ears: He was the Head of the Rabble; would lead them to Action; and if they shewed any Signs of Fear, he would upbraid them with *Cowardice*, and call them *a Pack of poor spirited Wretches, that did not deserve the Privileges they were contending for*: And with such Sort of Harangues, he set their Blood in a Flame, and gave them no Time to cool. But the Justice of Heaven found this Villain out: For he was shot dead from the *Tower of St. Laurence*, by a Musquet-Ball which took him full in the Forehead.

The Prince of *Bisignano* was now tired with the Fatigue he had undergone : He had been many Hours on Horseback, and the Season being extremely hot, was ready to faint ; for he was a Person of a very tender Constitution, not able to endure Hardship, and was almost suffocated by the Multitude of People that thronged about him. All attempts to Peace and Accommodation he found were fruitless ; and therefore he resolved to disengage himself from the Tumult as soon as he could : But this was not to be abruptly done ; and therefore he address'd himself to the Rabble, who began to be tired after their Day's Work, and persuaded them to *separate into Parties, and take up their Quarters that Night in several Parts of the City ; so that on the Morrow, they might easily come to the common Rendezvous, and they should find him ready to obey their Commands ; but insisted, that they should commit no Hostilities, and burn no more Houses till the Morning.* The People thought the Proposal reasonable ; and while they were dividing themselves into
Com-

Companies, the Prince conveyed himself out of the Crowd, and got off safely. He retired to the House of a near Relation, where, after he had stayed a short Time to refresh himself, towards the Close of the Evening he was carried in a Sedan into *Castelnovo*, and blessed God, that he had escaped with Life, out of the Hands of a distracted and implacable People.

But the Rabble soon found, what the Prince intended by dividing them; and concluding that their Safety lay in staying together, they united again; and perhaps had they found the Prince, his Life might have been in Danger: But, upon Enquiry, he was gone; and the people perceiving they were without a Head, cried out one and all for *Masaniello*, who first set on Foot the Recovery of their Liberties. The barefooted Fisherman appeared; and after they had complimented him with the great Titles of being the *Saviour and Father of his Country*, they made him their General. The fellow briskly accepted of the Command; and not troubling them with Speeches of his

own Inability, as the Custom is, he told them, *They should find him no Scoundrel; for all the Blood in his Body was at their Service, and he would either put an End to their Grievances, by abolishing those cursed Gabels; or he would die in the Attempt.* This Declaration was received by the Rabble with loud Huzzas: And the first Thing done by the new General, was by beat of Drum through the whole City and Suburbs, to summon the People to *Arms against the Tyranny of the Government, and the Oppression of the Taxes.*

The Calamities that threatened the City by these Tumults and Distractions, moved some of the Religious Orders to go in Procession through the City: And this they did not only to soften the Fury of the Rabble, by the Gravity and Solemnity of their Appearance; but from a Principle of Religious Zeal, to implore the Divine Assistance and Mercy, that God would be pleased to put a Stop to the Miseries that hung over their Heads, by setting Bounds to the Madness of the People. The most Reverend Fathers the Theatins have six Churches in the City.

City. From two of these, [that of *St. Paul*, and of the *Holy Apostles*, went out of each, a Hundred of the Religious. One Company passed through *Toledo-Street*, and so marched on before *St. Lewis's Church*, where the most pure Milk of the Blessed Virgin is kept : And the other made their Way, thro' other Streets of the City, that were the most populace ; 'till they came to the great Market-Place. Here they pray'd, and spoke to the People ; from whence they went to the Church of the most holy Lady of *Carminé* ; and having there offered their Devotions in the most solemn Manner, they returned Home ; and by this Time it was dark Night. The pious Designs, and holy Services of these Religious were gratefully acknowledged by the Viceroy ; who thought it became him, to give a full Account of the Procession, to the *Conte d'Ognate*, that was then *Catholick Ambassador* in the Court of *Rome*.

The Viceroy, and the whole Body of the Nobility, were confounded at these

these Proceedings of the Rabble; and could form no Resolution, how it was possible to reduce them to Temper. Their Numbers continually increased: And to prevent any Design they might have, of entering the Church of Saint Laurence, and seizing upon many valuable Things that were there lodged, and belonged to the Citizens; and especially lest they should carry off eighteen Pieces of Ordnance, and a Provision of small Arms, that were kept in the Tower of the Church, they set a Guard upon the Church, and Cloyster belonging to it; consisting of *Spaniards*, and others that were the best Soldiers they had. For his Excellency judged rightly, *that if the Rabble got Possession of the Steeple, they had the Command of the great Bell*, that was always rung in Cases of sudden Distress: And the People knew by that Sign, that they must betake themselves to Arms, for the City was in the utmost Distress.

His Excellency thinking himself no longer safe in the Castle of Saint *Elmo*, removed about two o'Clock in the Morning to *Castelnovo*, which joins
to

to the Royal Palace by a Bridge that passes between them. The most Eminent Cardinal *Trivultio*, with many Officers and stout Cavaliers went with him; and, for his Security, he had a good Body of *Spanish* Soldiers for a Guard. It was thought by wise Men, that the Viceroy might have easily suppressed the Tumults, had he crushed them in the Beginning, before they were so impetuous; and even now, had he exerted his Authority, and put himself at the Head of the King's Troops, the Rioters after the first Onset, would have surrendered, and laid down their Arms. But, instead of proceeding by these Measures, which he thought violent, he took a milder Course, and thought to win upon them, by Acts of Kindness and Popularity: And therefore, instead of falling upon them in an hostile Way, he contrived to supply the Populace with Bread, which now began to be scarce and dear; and issued out Orders to be published that Night, that on the Morrow Morning a Loaf of Bread should weigh thirty-three Oun-

ces

ces and four Grains; whereas before, it scarce weighed twenty-two Ounces; and that the Tax upon Fruit should be utterly abolished, and never be exacted any more. For his better Defence, he doubled the Guard upon the Castle.

Nor did the Fury of the People abate in the least. They were satisfied with nothing but Fire and Desolation. And, for that Purpose, they caused the great Bell of our Lady of *Carminé* to be rung out thrice that very Night, to incite the People to Arms. They obeyed the Summons: For they flocked together in Multitudes from all Parts; and dividing themselves into Companies, they marched into several Quarters of the City. Some went out, with a Design to set Fire to all the Toll-Houses in *Naples*, where the Gabels were exacted; and for the greater Terror they had Torches in their Hands, and Drums beating before them: Others stayed behind, to provide Arms and Ammunition for the Service of the following Day; and, for that Purpose, they plundered all the Shops of the Gun-Smiths, Sword-Cut-

Cutlers, and other Tradesmen; and got together a great Quantity of Swords, Musquets, Bullets, Gun-Powder, and Match: Other broke into the Houses of the Merchants; and the Arms they kept for their own Security against Thieves, were taken away by Violence, *for the Use of the most faithful People of Naples.* And because one of the Shop-Keepers attempted to make Resistance, and refused foolishly to gratify the Rabble; not only threatening *to complain to the Viceroy*, but rashly discharging a Mortar-Piece out of the Window, whereby one of them was killed; the People were so incensed, that they immediately clapped Fire to his House, wherein were many Barrels of Gun-Powder, and all flew up into the Air; which made a dreadful Shock, and struck a Terror through the whole City, eighty-seven Persons were blown up, and perished; and forty-four were miserably wounded, and scarce escaped with their Lives. The Viceroy was alarmed at these Proceedings: And to prevent such Barbarities for the future, he gave positive Orders, *that all the Powder that was lodged in the*

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City

City should be thoroughly wetted. The People on the other Hand, behaved with an imperious Authority along the Streets; and began to range themselves under some Order and Discipline: They resolved to have a regular Army ready for their Defence, and with great Application provided for the Business of the next Day.

The Preparations made by the *July 8.* Rabble the Night before, were Forerunners of great Mischief and Confusion on the Morrow. Their Vigilance and Industry were equal to their Fury and Resentments: They were sufficiently guarded against any Surprise, by keeping together in great Bodies all the Night, and setting Watches in the suspected Places of the City. Before it was clear Day, *Masaniello* appeared in the great Market-Place; and taking an Account of the Arms and Ammunition that was got together, and computing how many regular Troops could be supplied with them, he divided the Rabble in Regiments and Companies, and distributed the Arms among them. The Flower of the *Neapolitan* Youth listed voluntarily into the
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the Service, and were eager to be led on to Action. And to say the Truth, *Masaniello* with wonderful Dexterity and popular Oratory, had form'd them so exactly to his Purpose, that by a Motion of his Hand, they would have cut the Throats of all the Nobility, and set every House in the City on Fire. Nothing was to be heard in the Street, but the Noise of Drums and Trumpets, and the Clashing of Armour: The Colours were displayed, and now it no longer appeared to be a Rabble Rout, but a formidable and well ordered Army, absolutely at the Command of their General, and compleatly furnished with brutish Zeal and Barbarity, and all the Principles and Instruments of Death and Cruelty. The Soldiers marched with their drawn Swords, the Musquets, and Arquebuses cock'd, armed likewise with Lances and Targets. And what was more surprizing, and improved the Terror and Astonishment of the Government, the Country People thronged into the Town in great Multitudes, breathing nothing but Fire and Destruction: They came down from all the Villages

64 RISE and FALL of

about *Naples*, armed with Plough-Shares, Pitch-Forks, Spades, Pikes and other Implements; and forming themselves into some Order, they mixed themselves in the Rabble, and were principally concerned in the Calamities that followed. Nor were the Woman, in this general Confusion, wanting in their Zeal: For they assembled in great Numbers: furnished with Fire-Shovels, Iron Tongs, Spits, and other Family Instruments; protesting, *That they would lose their Blood in the Common Cause, and would never submit, 'till their Liberties were secured: They vowed, they would burn the City, and themselves and Children along with it, before they would be Beasts of Burden any longer, and bring up their Children to be Slaves, and Pack-Horses to a proud and haughty Nobility.* The very Children too were seen with Canes and Sticks in their Hands, threatening the Nobility, and urging their Fathers to Battle. The common Cry was, *Long live the King of Spain, but no more Gabels; let the Taxes perish, and be sent to Hell; to support the dark Kingdoms of the Devil;*
and

and cursed be the Raisers of them; those Blood-suckers, those Wolves, who have devoured the Flesh of the innocent Lambs: Let them die, and be torn Limb from Limb: Let us make them vomit and disgorge the Blood they have sucked: Let us squeeze the Hell-Hounds to the last Drop; those unsatiable Leeches, who have drained the faithful People of Naples, that they are ready to faint: Let those Wasps that buzz about us and sting us to Death, be blown up with Gun-Powder; they, who have lived upon the Honey of the Bees, and like Drones have plundered the Hive.

These, and such like, were the Outcries that were in the Mouth of the Populace, and rung horrible thro' all the Streets of *Naples*. No Man was safe, either in his Life or Property. The Nobility and Gentry were in the utmost Consternation. Some of them retired to the Country, lest their Wives and Daughters should be ravished; and conveyed away their most valuable Effects, lest they should be plundered. A general Fear and Amazement seized the most sober Part

of the Citizens; who, sensible of the Fury of an enraged Populace, shut up their Shops, and were forced to applaud the Proceedings of the Multitude, to secure their Goods and Houses from Fire. All Business and publick Offices were at a Stand. The Arts and Sciences languished: Books were neglected: Studies abandoned: The Bar was solitary: The Ecclesiasticks sung *Lachrymæ*: The Law ceased: Patronages were despised: Advocates were dumb: The Judges were fled, and the Courts of Justice were shut up. The Arsenals only were open: Magazines and Store-Houses were searched and rifled by the Rabble; and the whole City was inflamed with Martial Fury. Nothing was to be heard in the Streets but the rattling of Armour, and the scouring and furbishing of old Musquets, Pikes, and rusty Swords; every one encouraging his Fellow to *stand to it lustily*, and threatening the Execution of *Fire and Sword against all Opposers*.

But the principal Rendezvous of the People was about the great Market-

ket-Place, *Lavinaro*, and *Porta Nolana*. Here they drew up in military Order, and formed themselves into distinct Bodies, with proper Officers at the Head of them: And (which was a terrible sight) there were Persons disposed between the Ranks, with lighted Match and flaming Torches. *Masaniello* was *Generalissimo*; and he applied himself with singular Art, to provide against Extremities; to inspire the People with Courage, and infuse Terror among his Enemies. He sent positive Orders to thirty-six Precincts of the City, *To arm instantly for the common Defence, under the severe Penalty of firing their Houses about their Ears*; which was punctually executed: And by this Means, a great Multitude flocked to him completely armed; (which added to his Strength) and joined in the common Rage against the Government. His Care was now to secure Ammunition; and hearing of a Shop-Keeper, who had by him a Quantity of Gun-Powder, he civilly sent to him *to buy it*; and the Messenger carried ready Money in his Hand: But the
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Man refusing to sell it without Authority from the Viceroy, Masaniello detached a Party from the main Body to fire the House. They immediately threw lighted Matches in at the Windows, and the House, with 60 People that were within, flew up into the Air : So many were destroyed, for their Bodies were numbered afterwards, the Mob not suffering them to be buried for a long Time. Dreadful was the shock : It made a sort of an Earthquake all about it ; and the Crack was as loud, as when the great Gallion was blown up a few Weeks before, in the Port of Naples. But whether it took Fire, by Accident or by Design, is yet unknown. The Loss of this Powder made the Rabble the more furious ; and in a great Body, they marched to the King's Magazine, that was without the City, towards *Cap de Chino* ; with a Design to seize it for their own Use, or blow it up, When they came, they forced open the Doors ; but to their great Disappointment, it had been all wetted before, and would not take Fire. This was done by order of the Viceroy,
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by Way of Prevention, which raised the Spirits of the People, to the utmost Fury and Distraction.

The Viceroy, in the midst of these Calamities was not wanting for his own Defence and Security. He provided for the Worst: And therefore, not depending upon the Strength of *Castelnovo*, and a strong Guard of *Spaniards* that he took with him; he found Means to introduce within the Gates, a Reinforcement of 800 *Spaniards* more, 1000 *Germans*, and 1000 *Italians*. He set a Guard in the Streets of *Francisco Xaverio*, to the Number of 400. He likewise secured *Pizzafalcone*, which lies above the Palace, and all the adjacent Streets with good Fortifications; making Ramparts of Faggots, and digging another deep Trench round about the Old and New Palace; so that it was impossible for the Rabble to make any attack on that Quarter. His Excellency commanded a great Piece of Ordinance to be planted at the End of every Street, towards the Sancto Spirito, the Houses of the Father *Dominicans* and the Father *Minims*:
Ano-

Another he placed upon the Assent of *Sancto Lucia*; and two before the great Gate, towards the Middle of the new Palace. These and other Precautions were of great Use, in securing the Streets; and served to repel the Rabble, when their Fury urged them to make an Attempt upon the Castle.

Masaniello was no less industrious, in managing the People, and providing against Danger and Extremities. He had his Spies in all Quarters of the City, and the Neighbouring Villages; and having intelligence by his Scouts, that a new Regiment of *Germans*, were coming from *Pozzolo* to *Naples*, by order of the Viceroy, he detached a strong Body, well armed, to oppose their march, : They met them upon the Road, and fired briskly upon them. The *Germans* were surprised at this Attack, and made a faint Resistance: But some of their Men being killed, and finding they were overpowered by Numbers, they surrendered and laid down their Arms. Every Man of them was bound; and they were led as Prisoners of War into the City. His Excellency had sent for two Companies

nies of *Italians* for the same Purpose : But nothing could stir, without the Knowledge of *Masaniello*, who gave Orders to Fire upon them, if they made Resistance. They surrendered upon the first Summons, and were bound ; but considering better of the Matter, they offered their Service for the Defence of the City ; and so they were released and armed, and incorporated among the other Troops. The *Germans* had soon their Liberty given them, by Order of the General ; who with an air of Scorn and Insolence, sent them to the Viceroy, loaded with Bread, fresh and salt Meats, Cheese, Wine, and other Provisions. And they went dancing along the Streets, with Meat in their Hands, and Bottles at their Mouths ; to the great Joy and Diversion of the People.

It happened this Morning, that some of the Rabble had attempted to force the *Spanish* Guard, but were beaten back ; and two ordinary Fellows of their Company were seized and made Prisoners. News of this was soon carried to the main Body ; and a Detachment sent to demand the Prisoners,

ners, and upon refusal to fire and give no Quarters. The Prisoners were not immediately delivered ; which so enraged the People, that they fired desperately upon the Guard, which did Execution, and many of them were killed : They threatned, *that if their Comrades were not instantly produced, safe and without Hurt, they would slice every Spaniard in Naples to Pieces, and that there should not be a Man of them by Night left alive.* To prevent these Barbarities and fearing they would be as good as their Word, the Viceroy was obliged to comply, and the Prisoners were sent out safe and sound.

The People were wonderfully pleased with the weight of Bread, which rose considerably this Morning. For a Loaf of Bread before, was very little above 22 Ounces ; but it is now weighed 11 Ounces more ; in all 33. Upon this Occasion, the Women and Children ran out into the Streets, leaping and dancing with Loaves in their Hands, and crying out, *Long live the King of Spain : God save the most faithful People of Naples ; but the cruel*

cruel Government would starve us with Famine; down with it; down with the Taxes; down with the Taxes. It was thought, that this Alteration in the Weight of Bread, might have produced good Effects; but the Martial Fury of the Rabble was fomented by the Harangues and Violence of their Leaders, who breathed nothing but Fire and Defolation, and seemed resolved, that the Tumults should not end, but in the Destruction of the City.

The Viceroy, as was said before, had fortified himself in *Castelnovo*; and having with him, some Lords of the Collateral Council, and others of the principal Nobility, and of the Council of State, he advised with them what was proper to be done, to put a stop to the Commotions. Many and various were the Debates upon the Subject. Some were for making a Sally out of *Castelnovo*, with a strong Body of Guards; which possibly would disperse the undisciplined Rabble; or at least, would shew the Resolution of the Government; that they determined to repel

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Force

Force by Force. But his Excellency being tender of the Lives of the People, would not come into these Measures ; but tried gentler Methods, by sending a soft and condescending Letter to *Masaniello* ; wherein he absolutely granted what was demanded the Day before, *That the Taxes should be taken off, and the People establish'd in their Privileges.* But the haughty General grew imperious upon this Condescension ; and rising higher in his Demands, declared, *That he would be satisfied with nothing less, than a Restitution of the Privileges granted by King Ferdinand, and Charles V. of glorious Memory ; whose Statue he had over the Door of his House ; and that the Viceroy, the Collateral Council, the Council of State and the Nobility, should by a Publick Instrument, oblige themselves, their Successors and Posterity, to maintain inviolably the Old Charter of Privileges, and never to encroach upon the Liberties of it ;* He insisted further, *That the Clerk of the Market, should for ever be in the Nomination of the People : That they should chuse a*
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Capo Populi, or Head of the People, without any Interposition of the Viceroy ; and he should be a Lord by Title, according to the antient Practice, when the Prince of Salerno enjoyed that Office : And without the Consent of this Popular Tribune, no Taxes or Impositions should be laid : If they were, the People might lawfully refuse to pay, without falling under the Imputation and Penalty of Rebellion. His Excellency and the Council thought these Articles were unconscionable, and injurious to the Authority and Prerogative of the King his Master. Yet he concealed his Resentments and seeming to deny nothing, he promised by the Consent of the Council of State, That all Taxes should be abolished, and no more imposed without the Approbation of their Tribune ; and that all they expected, should be indulged, if they would but lay down their Arms, and quietly enter upon a Treaty of Settlement and Accommodation.

But the Rabble were implacable, and resolved to treat with Sword in Hand : They were afraid of being

deluded, and cheated out of their Liberties: This or never, they thought was the Time to insist upon their Privileges; when they had humbled the Pride, as they call it, of the Viceroy and the Ministry and brought them to sue for Peace. His Excellency observing them so disposed, and fearing they would grow in Love with this loose Way of living, judg'd it expedient to apply himself to the Duke of Mataloni, a favourite of the People's, who was a Prisoner in Castelnova, where he had been committed, upon Suspicion of having caused the Admiral Ship of Naples to be burnt, which was bound for Spain, and laden with Money for the Use of his Catholick Majesty. Him the Viceroy sent for, and told him with a smiling Aspect, that he was convinced of his Innocence, and therefore gave him his Liberty, which he doubted not, but he would employ for the Service of his King, and the Good of his Country; at the same Time desiring, that he would ride on Horseback through the principal Streets of the City, and use his good Offices to-
wards

wards satisfying the Importunities of the People. This Nobleman had a Brother, *Don Joseph Caraffa*, who had a Country Seat near *Benevento*, and was well beloved by the Populace; whom the Duke had sent for, to accompany him upon this Occasion. He came, and so both of them, with many others of the Nobility, rode in among the Rabble; intreating them *to lay down their Arms*, and promising them in the Name of the Viceroy, *That all Gabels should be abolished by publick Authority.* *Masaniello*, who was at the Head of the Rabble, with his Sword drawn, and well mounted and armed, boldly insisted upon seeing their Credentials to treat. The Nobility were astonished at the Insolence of this Fellow; but stifling their Indignation, *they desired, he would condescend to hear their Proposals, and then judge of them as he, in his great Wisdom, should think fit; and if they should be so fortunate, as to come to any Terms of Agreement, they engaged to see the Conditions executed at the Hazard of their own Lives.*

The General and his Followers were somewhat soften'd by these Condescensions : They said, they desired no more, than that the Privileges granted to the City of Naples, by his Majesty King Ferdinand, should be made good, which were afterwards confirmed by Charles V. of glorious Memory; who, by Oath had promised to his Faithful City, upon his Investiture in the Kingdom, by Pope Clement the VII. That no new Taxes or Impositions should be laid on the People, or the Kingdom of Naples, by himself, or his Successors, without the Consent of the Apostolick See : If they were imposed with that Authority, they were to be obeyed : Otherwise, the City and the People, had the Liberty to refuse the Payments. They might if they pleased, rise one and all with Sword in Hand, in Defence of their Charter, without the Imputation of Rebellion or Irreverence to the Prince who governed them. Now since all Taxes very few of small Consequence excepted have been imposed without the Consent of his Holiness, it was but just that they should be immediately

diately taken off, being in themselves void and of no Effect; and that the People should have the Original of the said Charter, delivered into their Hands, which was preserved in the Archives of St. Laurence's Church. These were their Demands, and they would die rather than recede from them. The Lords promised to use their best Endeavours with the Viceroy; and with great Courtesy, took their Leave of the People. They returned to Castelnovo, and his Excellency instantly called a Council, to advise, what was proper in these Extremities, and what Answer was to be returned to the Rabble, who still grew more violent, and threatened to set Fire to every Quarter of the City.

In the mean Time, the most Reverend the Archbishop, according to his accustomed Vigilance, and paternal Zeal to the Spiritual Peace, and Temporal Happiness of the People under his Charge, finding, that it was in vain to apply to the Rabble, addressed himself with great Devotion to God, and implored his Almighty Aid, for
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composing the Disorders, and setting Bounds to the Fury of the Populace. His Duty and Loyalty to the Catholick King, as well as the Principles of Religion, urged him upon all possible Methods to appease these Disorders; and for that Purpose, he summoned all the Regions of the City, to *expose the Host in the Churches, and to supplicate the Divine Assistance*; which was done with great Solemnity. The miraculous Blood, and the sacred Head of St. *Gennarro*, the glorious Protector of *Naples*, were likewise exposed; and all Orders went in solemn Procession up and down the City, followed by Multitudes of all Ranks and Conditions; who indeed, for the present, seemed to shew great *Respect* to the Fathers, and the devotional Part of the Service, but abated little of their violence, when the Procession was over, and the Monks and Friars were returned to their Cells.

It was said before, that the Original Charter was preserved in the Archives of St. *Laurence*. The Prior of *Bocella*, a Reverend and Learned Eccle-

Ecclesiastick, was deputed by the People, to search for it. He appear'd among the Rabble on Horseback; and having been with the Viceroy some time before, had prevailed to have a *Proclamation Written in Letters of Gold, by which all the Taxes were taken off.* With this Instrument in his Hand, he rode up and down the Streets; publishing, *That his Excellency the Viceroy had done them the Grace, in the Name of his Catholick Majesty, to put an End to the Gabels.* This News was at first received by the People with loud Acclamations; and the Prior was surrounded with an infinite number of Boys, who leap'd and danc'd about him, crying; *Long live the King of Spain, who has abolished the Gabels.* In this Manner they conducted him to the Market-place, and they almost bore his Horse from the Ground. But their Note was soon changed, for the Prior conceiving it to be difficult to find the Charter, and astonished withal at the Insolence of the Multitude, conveyed himself unaccountably out of the Crowd, under a Pretence of retiring

tiring for necessary Reasons, and betook himself for Sanctuary, to the Church of the *Holy Apostles*. The People waited some Time for his Return; but when they knew he had given them the Slip they threaten'd him with *Death*, if ever he fell into their *Hands*, and flew out into the utmost Rage; for they had great Dependence upon the Wisdom and Integrity of this Churchman, who was a Man of great Humanity and Condescension, and of powerful Interest with the Viceroy. I have heard another Account of this Matter, different from what I have here related; which is, that the Prior went into the Archives of *St. Laurence*, and brought out a Kind of Instrument in a Sheep's Skin, which he declared to be the *Original Charter* of Charles V. and this Fraud he thought justifiable, having no other Design, than by all possible Devices, to put an End to the Commotions: But the Jealous Populace suspected some Contrivance; and therefore, they delivered it to some Gentlemen of the Long Robe to be perused. The Council were obliged to tell the Truth,
for

for fear of their Lives; and declaring the Instrument to be a Counterfeit, the Rabble were so incensed, that had not the Prior instantly fled to Refuge, he had been torn to Pieces, and had met with the same Fate that happen'd some Hours before, to the Prince of *Monte Sarchio*, who innocently passing through the Mob, was cruelly used and Murdered. This latter, in my Opinion, seems to carry more Weight with it than the former.

By this Time the Duke of *Mataloni* returned from the Castle; follow'd by great Multitudes, who were rather Guards than Attendants, and conducted him into the great Market-place. This was the general Rendezvous, where the Heads of the Rabble took up their Quarters; and from hence, they sent Dispatches to all Parts of the City. This Nobleman, it seems, had found in the Castle, an Authentick Copy of the Original Charter; and convincing the Viceroy, *that it would be useful for him to carry it out*, he held it waving in his Hand, and told the People he had found *the Charter of their Privileges*. The Duke had
been

been inform'd with what had happen'd just before, to the Prior of *Rocella*, and therefore, not daring to say it was the Original, he declared from his Knowledge, that it was a faithful and true Copy, and that they should soon have the Pleasure of seeing the Original; but for the Present it was not to be found. *Masaniello* took the Instrument in his Hand and delivering it to some of the Long Robe for Advice, it was read out aloud, but it gave no Satisfaction: The People crying out, *A Cheat, a Cheat*. The Duke was then in Danger of his Life, and received several Blows upon the Head; but considering, that he had not imposed upon them, but told them the Truth of the Matter, they spared him, and committed him close Prisoner to the Monastery of the *Carmine*, and appointed a famous Banditto, called *Perrone*, to be his Keeper. This Fellow had been long confined in the same Church, but at the Beginning of the Tumults, was set at Liberty by the People. He had formerly been intimately acquainted with the Duke of *Mataloni*, and pity-

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ing his Misfortune, or rather willing to get 10,000 Ducats, he undertook for him. The Rabble were at first inexorable ; but at last, he so labour'd the Business, that he obtained his Release, upon Condition, *That he would be ready to produce him upon Demand, and would stake down his own Life for his Appearance.* Thus narrowly, did this nobleman escape the Fury of the Multitude, and secured not only his Life, but his Liberty. He return'd to his Palace in the City, where he staid about a Day or two, and then made the best of his Way, with his Family and Attendants, to one of his Seats in the Country.

A certain Political Writer *, (who seems to intimate, that the Duke of *Matuloni's* Release out of Prison, was intirely owing to the Fear the Viceroy had, that the People, who very much esteem'd this Nobleman, would obtain his Liberty by Force) accounts for the Treatment he received from the Mob, after another Manner. He tells us, " That though the Viceroy outwardly seem'd to court, and
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* Com. de Mod. Hist. de Nap. Tom. I cap. 7.

“incourage his Mediation in this
 “Tumult, he intended to use him
 “only as a Tool, to create a Misun-
 “derstanding between the Nobility
 “and the Commons ; being of nothing
 “so apprehensive, as of a Union
 “between these two Orders of the
 “State. That, to the End, whilst
 “the Duke of *Mataloni* was going to
 “the Market-place, in order to bring
 “the Rabble, if possible, to Terms
 “of Agreement, four Reformadoes,
 “according to the Instructions they
 “had received privately from the Vice-
 “roy, got thither before him ; and hav-
 “ing obtained Audience of *Masani-*
 “*ello*, and the other Ringleaders of
 “the Sedition, declared to them, that
 “they were assured from very good
 “Hands, that the Duke of *Mataloni*’s
 “pretended Mediation was all a Sham,
 “and that the Instrument, which he
 “would shew them presently, was a
 “Counterfeit, and only an Artifice,
 “and a Blind, concerted between him,
 “and the Viceroy, on purpose, to de-
 “lude the People. *Masaniello*, who
 “was naturally diffident, conceived in-
 “stantly a deep Resentment against
 “the

“ the Duke, and the rather, because
“ *Julio Genovino*, a crafty old Fox,
“ and a Promoter of the Tumult, had
“ often insinuated to him, that he ought
“ to be cautious how he treated with
“ the Nobility, who, by their fine
“ Speeches, and the affection the People bore them, might gain such an
“ Ascendant over the Rabble, as to
“ become their Heads and Leaders,
“ and by that Means, rob him of the
“ Honour and Glory which the Cause
“ he had undertaken, intitled him to.
“ Therefore, as soon as the Duke of
“ *Mataloni* appeared in the Market-
“ place, with the Instrument in his
“ Hand, *Masaniello* taking it from
“ him, and looking upon it, cried out,
“ a Cheat, a Cheat, ; and at the same
“ time, calling the Duke a Traitor,
“ he knock’d him off his Horse ; there-
“ by exposing him to the cruel Out-
“ rages and Affronts of the Populace,
“ who, when they were tired with
“ beating and kicking him, bound
“ him Hand and Foot, and sent him
“ to Prison.”

The Rabble having twice been deluded, by the Prior of *Rocella* and the Duke his Kinsman, and firmly believing, that, under Colour of being serviceable to their Country, and labouring a Peace, the Nobles had no other Design, than that of betraying them to the Ministry, launched out the most horrid Anathemas upon the whole Nobility and talk'd of, nothing less, than sacrificing them to their Resentments. On the other Hand the Viceroy, fully persuaded, that nothing concurr'd more to break the unlawful Measures of the Rabble, than this Division between the two Parties, rejoiced that his Plot had succeeded so well: But, still fearing that the Nobility, who had a secret Aversion to the *Spanish* Ministry, should lay hold of this Opportunity, to revenge their private Injuries, by siding with the People, 'tis reported, that he caused a Rumour to be spread abroad, *That the Nobility, to revenge the Insults and Cruelties which had been committed upon some of their Order, intended to fall upon the Rabble, with a strong Body, which they*

they were raising for that Purpose. And the better to make his Stratagem take Effect, he ordered 12,000 Fire-Arms to be distributed, underhand among the Rabble, that they might be ready to defend themselves, when they should be attacked by these secret Enemies of the Government. So prevailing was the Viceroy's Fear, that the Nobility should act in Concert with the People, that he carried on several other close Negotiations and Intrigues, in order to raise a Jealousy between them, and make a Reconciliation between these two Orders of the State impracticable.

The bold Fisherman was advanced, as has been said, to be general of the Mob, upon account of his Courage and natural Bravery. But the People, at the same time, appointed an old Priest, before-mentioned, called *Julio Genovino*, to be always near him, as his privy Counsellor. This Ecclesiastick was a grave sober Person, of great Cunning, and of singular Skill and Experience in Affairs of State: He loved to fish in troubled Waters, and had been imprisoned for some Time, for attempting to raise Disturbances, and in-

1620? flame the Commons against the Government. He was made Elect of the People, by the Duke of *Ossuna* (in the Year 1720) that he might the better concur with that Viceroy, in a Conspiracy which had been concerted between them against the Nobility. But upon the Duke of *Ossuna's* Disgrace, he was carried into *Spain*, and from thence to *Otan*, where he remained Prisoner 19 Years. At the Beginning of the Tumults, he found himself confin'd in the Prison of *St. James*, which was forced open by the People, chiefly upon his Account; and by reason of his good Will and Intentions to serve them, the People promoted him to this great Honour, and made him Prime Minister. The next in Power, was the *Banditto Perrone*, a Jayl-bird; and by the Council of these Two, were transacted in a great Measure; all the Murders and Cruelties, the Burnings and Devastations that followed, in every Part of the City.

These two Counsellors were to attend upon *Masaniello*, as a Curb to his Fury: But instead of restraining him

him in his Rage, they added Fuel to the Fire; and the first Thing they did, after they entered upon their Office, was, *to draw out a List of above Sixty Houses, or rather Palaces, that belonged to the Principal Commissioners of the Taxes, in Order to have them burnt down to the Ground.* The Design was approved of by the Generalissimo, who gave Orders to some of his Officers, *To make strict Inquiry after all that were any way concerned with the Gabels, who had either advised or lent Money upon them; and acquired Estates by farming them of the Government.* This was called *Blood-sucking, squeezing, and grinding the People; and nothing could atone for the Offence, but burning and destroying their Houses and Furniture, and bringing them upon a level with the Populace; that such Practices might be prevented for the Time to come, and corrupt Ministers, in after Ages, might be terrified by the just Examples made of the Present.* And these were no empty Threatenings: For the People were as good as their Words,

Words, and lighted Faggots were blazing in every Quarter, ready for Execution. A great Shew of Discipline was kept up in these Disorders; and in the midst of the Confusion, they observed the most exact Rules of Justice and moral Honesty. All was done *for the Publick Good, and the Destruction of Evil Ministers*; and no private Interest was considered: For whoever, in the rising of a House, attempted to lay hold upon any Thing, to carry it away for his own Use, hazarded his Life. One poor Fellow was immediately knocked on the Head, for pilfering a small Towel: Another received fifty severe lashes on the Back, for stealing the Crupper of a Saddle: And many, for concealing the most trivial Things, were hanged up by the Executioner, in the publick Market-place, at the Command of *Masaniello*; who scarce allowed the Wretches Time to lift up their Hands to Heaven, and transact their Affairs with their Ghostly Fathers. He was *an Enemy to his Country, and the Liberties of the People*, who expressed the least Tender-

derness and Compassion for these Calamities ; and when Houses and Goods were on Fire, to commiserate the Misfortune of the Sufferers, was to be reckoned *Accomplices, and publick Thieves and Robbers*. As an Instance of this, an honest Man, unadvisedly, and by a natural Compassion, lamenting the burning of the House and rich Furniture of the Duke of *Caviano*, by shaking his Head only, and saying, *It was a Thousand Pities*, was attacked by the Mob, who would have torn him to Pieces, if he had not providentially made his Escape, through a small Wicket, which for some Time stopped the pursuit ; the People storming and crying out, *Where is the Villian, where is he ? If we catch the Dog, we will teach him Pity, we will strip the Skin over his Ears, and pound him in a Mortar*.

The first House that felt the Fire, was a noble and magnificent Structure, that belonged to one of the Commissioners of the Taxes, *Hieronymo Fetitias* by Name, who had acquired a great Estate, by farming the

the Gabel upon Corn. His Palace was one of the most regular Buildings in *Naples*, and was situated in the Quarter of *Porto Nuovo*, and lay contiguous to the Houses of the Lord *Mormili*. Hither flocked a Multitude of the Rabble, carrying dry Faggots upon their Shoulders, and lighted Torches in their Hands : They attacked the Gates, and forcing all Opposition, got into the House. Every Room was searched and rifled ; and all the Furniture was thrown out of the Windows into the Street ; consisting of Silver Plate, great Quantities of Pewter and Brass, Chairs Tables, Carpets, Glasses, Tapestries, and Household Stuff of all Kinds : They forced open the Closets and Chests, and private Drawers where his Money lay. Here they found many Bags of Gold and Silver, Jewels, Chains and Bracelets of great value. All was thrown out and carried into the publick Market-place in Triumph, and there hurled without Distinction into a huge Fire made for that Purpose, and all consumed to Ashes : The Rabble of Men, Women, and Children, dancing about the

the Pile, with loud Outcries and Acclamations; and saying: *Burn them down to a Cinder: These Goods are got out of our Hearts Blood; and as they burn, so ought the Souls and Bodies of those Blood-suckers who own them, to fry in the Fire of Hell.*

This Tragedy being ended, the Rabble ran with great Fury to the House of *Felix Basil*, which they resolved to rifle from the Top to the Bottom. This Man was originally of a mean Extract and Occupation; being at first, no more than a poor Baker, who used to carry upon his shoulders, his Bread up and down the Streets of *Naples*: But applying himself with great Dexterity, to publick Business and dealing in the Funds, he acquired immense Riches. He was a great Favourite of the Viceroy's; and had built a fine House near the *Spirito Santo*, where he lived in as much Splendor and Magnificence, as any Man in the City. The People assembled about the Gates in great Multitudes, with lighted Torches in their Hands. They soon made an
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Entrance; and stripping the Rooms as they went along, they threw out at the Windows and Balconies, all the Furniture, Household-Stuff, Writings and Books that were of Great Value: There were 23 Trunks hurled out into the Streets; and some of them being forced open, by the Violence of the Fall, there were discovered Things of the richest and most costly Workmanship; such as Cloth of Gold, and Tissues, the finest Embroideries, and noble Tapestries which perfectly astonished the Eyes of the Beholders, who yet were so far from preserving these valuable Effects, that they took them, with a Cabinet full of Pearls, and other precious Stones, and threw them into a Pile of Fire made before the Gate, without saving so much as a Rag upon pain of Death; the Rabble all the while dancing about the Flames, with the loudest Outcries and Acclamations.

These dreadful Conflagrations continued for the Space of five Hours without Intermiſſion. And when there was no more Fuel for the Fire, the Mob drove furiously, towards the House
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of *Antonio de Angelis*, a Counsellor of State, who had been Elect of the People, in the Time of *Monterry*. This Man to his Misfortune, concurred with the Viceroy in the Imposition of many New Taxes, and was violent in the Execution of the Laws, against such as were remiss to pay. He had frequently been admonished by his Friends, to secure his Goods, and use all possible Precautions to defend his Palace from firing: But he was Indolent upon the Occasion, and neglected the Advice: For it seems, the Day before, the Rabble contented themselves, with forcing and carrying away one of his Gates; and he thought *their Resentments would end here, and they would attempt no further Violence against him: Besides, his exceeding Gravity, and the Veneration, he supposed was due to a Gentleman of the Long Robe, he thought would be a Protection against future Ravages:* But he mistook miserably in his Notions; and his unfortunate Destiny cast a Mist before his Eyes: For the Rabble, with their usual Fury, assembled be-

fore his House furnish'd with Flaming Torches and blazing Faggots, and soon forced their Way through the Doors.

This Palace was finely furnished ; and the Pictures, Jewels and Household-Goods were of inestimable Value ; which instead of drawing their Compassion, served only to incense their Rage. *These Things*, they cried, *were the Blood of the Poor People of Naples* : And all without Distinction, was immediately destin'd to the Fire. Every Corner of the House soon blazed : Nothing was left unconsumed. And what was the more to be lamented, the Pleas, the Charters, the Writings and Processes of many poor and wealthy Persons that were committed to his Care, being a Pleader at the Bar, were reduced to Ashes. A Library, consisting of a choice collection of Curious Books, were destroyed ; and a fine Cabinet with many thousand Crowns, was thrown into the Flames. Two rich Coaches, four beautiful Horses, and two Mules were unmercifully burnt : And to inrage the Fire, the People threw Bottles of Oil, and other combustible

bustible Materials into it, which made them Sport and Diversion; and they danced about these dreadful Ruins, as if they had been celebrating a Festival. In the Pantry, the Larder-House and Kitchen, they found the choicest Provisions, and many large Jars of Pickles, and Chests of Sweetmeats, which were all consumed; no one offering to save the least Morsel of any of these Delicacies. We have already taken Notice, how great a Shew of Discipline, and private Dis-interestedness, was kept up by the Mob, in these terrible Desolations, as if they abhorred the Thoughts of Spoil and Plunder: As another Instance of which, a Boy having taken a Piece of Bacon, as if he designed to convey it away, had like to have been torn to Pieces, and with much ado escaped with his Life. In this Havock, there was above 10,000 Crowns of good Silver destroyed; besides vast Quantities of Plate that was double Gilt. The Fire of this House was so great, that though it was in the Night-time, it enlightened the whole Place;

and every Corner of the Street was as clear, as if it had been Noon-Day.

The next House, that fell a Sacrifice to the People's Resentments, was the Palace of *Antonio Mirabella*, another Pleader at the Bar, and a *Neapolitan* Cavalier in the Suburb of *Mayds*: He was surprized in his Bed, and forced to jump out at a Back-Window, in his Shirt; and so escaped with great Difficulty; for a Musket-Ball missed him narrowly as he fled. However, His House and all his rich Furniture was consum'd: All was devoted to the voracious Flames: The very Walls were pulled down, and scarce a Stone left standing upon another. This Fire continued above three Hours.

The Destruction that followed, was a magnificent House of *Andrea Andlerio*, Elect of the People. He was before assaulted by the Boys, and pelted with Stones. But wisely foreseeing the Danger, that was like to ensue, he had removed his rich Furniture, and all his Goods of Value; so that the Mob, breaking violently into

into his House, found it stripp'd ; and enraged with the Disappointment, they instantly clapped Fire to the four Corners, which raged horribly for four Hours : The Terror and Rage of the Flames, perfectly astonished the Beholders : But the Fury of the Prime Incendaries, abated nothing ; and the Building was levelled with the very Ground.

While the People were busy in these dreadful Executions, and burning *the Possessions* (as they called them) *of the Publick Thieves* ; the Viceroy was accordingly troubled at these Combustions, and passionately desired, *by all possible Arts to appease their Fury* : For the whole City looked like a continued Tract of Flames ; and nothing less was to be expected than utter Ruin and Devastation. Methods of Accommodation were consulted, and the Collateral Council, and the Councils of State and of War advised seriously, upon these sad Calamities : Upon the Whole, after many Debates, it was resolved as the best Expedient, *That his Excellency should command*

Four Regiments of Foot, to reinforce that Body that was already placed in Defence of the Castle: And this Order was immediately executed. The next Resolution was, That a Legal Instrument should be Printed, and affixed in the Publick Places of the City; which absolutely should abolish all Gabels and Impositions, and a General Pardon secured to the Offenders. As soon as this Instrument was published, it was sent into the great Market-place, that the Populace might see and read it, and so disperse and return to their Obedience. But these Expedients had no manner of Effect; because the Pardon was not so fully expressed as to satisfy the People, who were afraid of an After-Reckoning, if the Conditions and Articles were not perfectly in Form, or could have been evaded: So that all was undone again, and the Treaty broken off. This Disappointment much affected the Viceroy, who resolved, if possible, to renew the Treaty: But, observing, that the Nobility were become odious to the People; and, had he used

used their Mediation, the Discontents would rather have been fomented, than suppressed; he judged it more useful, to employ two of the principal Favourites of the Populace, in whom he could entirely confide; *Andrea Martellone*, and *Onofio Palma*. These Gentlemen were sent for; and his Excellency advising with them, upon the Posture of Affairs, recommended the whole Management, to their *Prudence and Care*; and having promised them great *Rewards upon their Success*, he commissioned them *with full Power to Treat*. For this Purpose, they applied to the Chief Leaders of the Tumult; and with all the Arts of Address and Popularity, recommended to them, *the Study of Peace and Loyalty*, and promised them a *full Indemnity for all that was passed*: But these popular Orators made no Impression upon the furious Mob: They returned therefore to the Viceroy; and told him flatly, *That it was impossible to allay, or put an End to the Disorders, without delivering into the Hands of the People, the*
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104 RISE and FALL of
Original Charter of Charles V. which contained a Confirmation of their Privileges. His Excellency, who from the Beginning, had omitted no Opportunity of healing the Breaches, resolved to gratify them in their Demands, especially in this Point; and immediately used his utmost Diligence, to search into the publick Records, and discover where this Charter of Privileges was to be found. To this End, he dispatched some of the Nobility, and the Elect of the City, attended by *Don Joseph Maria Caracciolo*, a Theatin, a person of great Courage, and Learning, and respected for his singular Piety and austere Life; who was active upon all Occasions, to suppress these Seditions, and much devoted to the Service and Interest of his King and Country.

While the Ministers of the Government, were thus sollicitous for the publick Peace, *Masaniello*, as the General of the Mob, was issuing out his Commissions to support the Defection. He sent out his Orders, in the Name of the People of *Naples*, *That all the Merchants, and the several companies*

panies of the City, should be ready with compleat Arms, at an Hour's Notice, for the Recovery of the Publick Liberty.

He had about him a Number of Men as a Body-Guard, and a Train of well appointed Horsemen followed him. With these, and an incredible Number of the Rabble on Foot, he marched through the principal Streets; and when he came to the Houses of any suspected Persons, of what Quality soever, he broke in, and searched for Arms and Ammunition, which were delivered him with an ill Will, by the Nobility and Officers of the City. By this Method, he furnished himself with many Thousands of Harquebuzes, Carbines, Musquets, Pistols, and other Fire Arms: And among the rest, he found nine Pieces of Artillery, which a Merchant had in his House; and which he received as a Pledge from the Government, for the Payment of some Thousands of Ducats. He took seven great Cannons out of a Ship, which he disarmed in the *Mole*: For this Purpose, he was furnish'd with a fine new Galley; well provided, and making
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up to the Vessel, he sent a Summons to the Captain, *to deliver her up; and upon Refusal, he Threatened to set her on Fire*: The Officer, unable to resist, surrendered, and delivered him the great Guns, which were placed by *Masaniello*, at the Entrance of the leading Streets of the City. He had his Emissaries in all Quarters, who brought him Intelligence, : And being informed by them, *That Mazola, a Genoway Merchant, had good Store of Arms in his House*, they forced the Gates, and finding 4000 Musquets, he distributed them among the People, especially among those that dwelt in the Quarters of *Sancta Maria ill Parete*. After he had rifled the House, he clapped lighted Torchés to the four Corners, and consumed it down to the Foundation.

The good Archbishop, affected with these sad Calamities, and finding that all Offers of Accomodation were ineffectual, and that the Commotions advanced every Hour with more Fury, he resolved to try once more what Impression the Reverence, and Solemnity of Religion, would make upon
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on the People: And to that End, he ordered a general Proceſſion; in which he would aſſiſt himſelf, accompanied by the *Theatins*, and the Religious of Saint *Hierom* of the Congregation of the *Oratorio*. But doubting whether it would be ſo agreeable to the People, he thought proper to ſound their Inclinations, before he executed his Deſign. He uſed great Prudence upon this Occaſion; for he conſidered, that when the Religious went in Proceſſion before in a moſt ſolemn Manner, the Populace paid no great Regard to the ſacred Rites: For though, *the Deſign of them was* (as they ſaid) *very commendable, yet, they had at preſent, other Buſineſs upon their Hands of the utmoſt concern: They were reforming the Government and abolishing the Taxes; ſo that they had not Time to follow their Devotions: And beſides, they obſerved, That when the Gabels and Impoſitions were laid, there were Proceſſions to be ſeen then, when they were neceſſary to deprecate the divine Judgments; and they were reſolved, they ſhould have none of theſe Ceremonies*

monies now the Impositions were going to be put down. These Murmurs came to the Archbishop's Ears; but nothing discouraged, he sent to the Impositors of Saint Paul and of the Apostles, both which belonged to Theatin Churches; and desired they would apply themselves to the Populace, and take with them some of the Secular Priests of the greatest Birth and Eminence. The Seculars of the greatest Interest and authority, were Don Carlo de Bologna, and Don Diego de Mendoza, who with the Impositors, went in their Coaches with great Gravity, to the Piazza of the great Market-place, to observe the Humour of the People; particularly, to persuade them, if possible, to admit of a Procession, and that the Archbishop had no other Views, than the Service and Satisfaction of the City. Upon applying to the Mob, these Venerable Intercessors were in danger of being insulted: But the Heads of the Sedition protected their Persons from Violence; withal telling them positively, "That they did not dispute the Zeal of the Archbishop,"

"to

“ to serve and assist them in the Reco-
“ very of their Liberties : For his good
“ Wishes, they were obliged to him : But
“ as for a Procession, they apprehended
“ it very improper at that Time ; and
“ they advised his Eminence, by all means
“ to desist ; for they could not be answe-
“ rable for Consequences, if the Priests,
“ or the Religious should receive any Vio-
“ lence, or had their Persons or Characters
“ injured : The Multitude was in a Fer-
“ ment, and the Dignity of the Church
“ might be violated, in such Times of
“ Distraction, : The City was full of
“ armed Men, with no other Designs
“ (God knows) but the publick Good ;
“ and perhaps Mischief might follow :
“ Therefore they presented their Duty to
“ his Eminence, and prayed, that instead
“ of a Procession, he would expose in the
“ Church, the Holy Host, and order
“ publick Orisons for forty Hours.”

The Fathers and Gentlemen being
returned to the Cardinal Archbishop,
gave him an Account of their Disap-
pointment ; related to him what they
proposed, and what Insolence they
received : And therefore, his Eminence
not thinking it expedient to put his

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former Thoughts in Action, against the Will of a Tumultuary People; he gave Orders to the said Prepositors, and all the Heads and Rectors of Churches, as well Secular as Regular, *That the blessed Sacrament should be exposed, and Prayers offered up in publick and private, to implore the Mercy of Heaven, and to recommend to the Divine Majesty, the deplorable Condition of the City and Kingdom of Naples.* And this was performed every Day with great Devotion, until the Death of *Masaniello*.

When the Archbishop had dispatched those seasonable Orders, it being now Night, his Eminence repaired to *Castelnovo*, to confer with the Viceroy, and to consult, whether any Terms of Accommodation could be proposed, that might avert the Calamities that threatened the City and give some Satisfaction to the enraged Multitude; who had been so used to Fire and Cruelty, that they seemed to delight in such Sights and Executions, and therefore all possible Arts and Condescension were to be used, to soften the
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Ferity of their Natures, and bring them to Temper and Moderation : For the better effecting of which, this worthy Patriot associated to him, the most illustrious the Apostolical Nuncio, at that time residing in the Kingdom. In the Evening, several persons of Quality, and Gentlemen of the Long Robe and others, retired also to *Castlenovo* ; as well for the Safety of their Persons, as to consult with the Viceroy, what was most proper to be done in the present Extremities.

The Rabble were so inflamed with Riot, and Thirst of Revenge, that (notwithstanding the Care and Vigilance of the Archbishop, and other worthy Patriots) as soon as the Day began to dawn, they returned to their old Business, of burning and destroying the Houses and Furniture of the Farmers, and others concerned in the Gabels. Nothing could stop or aswage the Fury of the unbridled Multitude ; which, like an impetuous Torrent, bore down all Opposition, sure, wherever it directed its rapid Course, to bring Ruin and Desolation along with it.

I do not intend to enter upon a particular Description of all the fiery Executions that happened this Day: Enough has been already said on that Subject, to give the Reader a just Idea of the Rage of an exasperated Populace. However, it may not be a miss to observe, that those Cruelties (by the People termed *just Revenge*) were exercised upon all them, that had the Misfortune to be pricked down in *Masaniello's* List. Among these, the Palace of *Valenzano*, a Farmer of the Gabel upon Corn, was the first Victim that fell a Sacrifice to the Resentment of the Rabble; in the rifling of which, were found two Coffers filled with Gold, which, by the Command of *Masaniello*, was not consumed with the rest of the precious Moveables found there, but laid in Bank, to serve as Occasion should require. Another Thing remarkable, is, that in the midst of these Distractions, the *Rioters* had so great a regard to *Religion*, that having found in the young Duke of *Caivano's* Palace, several rich and valuable Pictures, among which were some Pieces of Sacred History; the Profane they burnt, but these they sent
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to several Churches to be there set up, having first divested them of the costly Frames and Jewels that adorn'd them, which were thrown into the common Heap, and burnt to Ashes. *Luprano* indeed, and some other Partisans, thinking to elude the Fury of the Rabble, sent all their Goods and rich Furniture into the Monastery of the Nuns, of the *Conception*, and other religious Houses: But *Masaniello* having Notice of it, sent express Orders to the said Monasteries, to deliver up all the said Good in their possession, upon Pain of Firing. They not daring to refuse, brought out an incredible Quantity of rich Moveables of all Sorts, which were immediately thrown into a great Fire and perished in the Flames.

In the mean time, and whilst the People were glutting their rage with Destruction, the two Original Charters of Privileges, granted by *Charles V.* and King *Ferdinand*, were found, and brought to the Viceroy, by the chief Elect of the Nobles, and *Don Giuseppe Caracciolo*, a *Theatin*, who had spared no Pains in the Search of

them. This was a fair Opportunity to put an End to the Commotions. But the Viceroy was dilatory, and irresolute in the Business; and contented himself, with sending the Archbishop to assure the People; *that he would shortly relieve them as they desired.* The People finding, that the Treaty of Accommodation went on but slowly, and raised by these Delays, to a Mistrust of the Viceroy's Intentions, resolved to make themselves Masters of the Convent and Tower of St. *Lawrence*; not only because they feared its Situation, from whence their Quarters in the Market-place, might be molested by Cannon-shot; but because it was the Arsenal of the City; and by securing themselves of this Place, they might be provided with Arms and Ammunition. They had made an Attempt upon it the *Sunday* before; but being then only few in Number, and meeting with a vigorous Repulse from some Banditti, who were in the Belfrey, they were forced to withdraw: But now the Case was altered; for a Body of about 10,000 Men in Arms having surrounded

rounded the Monastery, drew up in Battalia, and made themselves ready for an Assault, by placing two large Pieces of Ordinance, which they had brought with them, opposite to the Tower, in order to batter it down.

These Preparations for a Siege, filled the Friars with Fear and Amazement : They no sooner heard a Discharge of Small Arms, and perceived lighted Faggots ready for Execution, but they forsook the Convent and took to their Heels ; leaving only behind them, some Novices, a few Gentlemen, and 60 *Spaniards* sent thither the Evening before by the Viceroy, who surrendered, upon Condition of having their Lives and Cloathing granted them. The People were overjoyed at this Success. They rush into the Convent, and having secured all the small Arms, and 18 Pieces of Ordinance, that were there laid up for the Service of the City ; the former were distributed among the Rabble, and the latter planted in different Quarters and Streets, and a sufficient Number of Men, appointed to attend and guard them.

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All this was done by *Masaniello's* Direction; who at the same Time, commanded the *Alarm Bell to Ring*, as well to publish the Victory he had obtain'd, as to make the Citizens rise in Arms, and multiply his Numbers; solemnly protesting, *That his Design was not to incite the People to Rebellion, but only, to make them ready to stand in Defence of their Rights and Liberties.* And to make his Intentions yet more plain, he ordered the Standard of *Spain*, together with the Ensigns of the City, to be set up on the Top of the Steeple.

About this time, *Masaniello* having Notice given him by his Scouts, that some *Spanish* Forces, that were quartered in the Neighbouring Villages, were making towards *Naples*, he detach'd a Party to meet them; who, after having disarmed them, sent them back to their former Stations; whilst he himself marched, at the Head of a Considerable Body, to stop the progress of 600 *Germans*, that were sent from *Capua*, by the Governor of that City, to succour the Viceroy. But upon the Approach of *Masaniello*,

saniello, they laid down their Arms, without offering to make the least Resistance; and surrendering themselves, they were led into the City, where the Fisherman treated them so well, that they went up and down the Streets, crying, *Long live the faithful People of Naples.*

The People in the mean time, were making diligent Search in the Archives of Saint *Laurence*, for the Original Charters of *Charles V.* and King *Ferdinand.* But it being impossible for them to find them there, they grew more furious than ever; committing many Outrages, and firing all the Goods and Furniture of Value they could meet with in the Convent; which the Viceroy being informed of, and finding he could no Way appease them, without producing the said Originals, he sent for the Archbishop, and delivering them into his Hand, with a Ratification of the Privileges therein contained, desired him to go to the Market-place, and shew them to the People.

The good Archbishop, having the Original Charters in his Possession, made

made no question but he should soon quiet the Rabble, and put an End to the Commotions. Pleased with this Thought, he lost no Time, but went directly to the Market-place, where he was received with great deal of Respect and Honour by the Mob, who always had a great Veneration for the Reverend Prelate. From thence he went to the Church of our Lady of *Carminé*, followed by vast Numbers of People : And holding out the Charters in his Hand, he told them, *He hoped they would now be satisfied ; for he had brought them the Original Charters, which they so much insisted upon, with a Confirmation of all their Privileges under his Excellency's Hand and Seal ;* And they being, at his Eminence's Desire, read aloud, the soundest Part of the People were transported with Joy, at the Prospect of so many Benefits they were going to enjoy, and already began, to return Thanks to Divine Providence for bringing the Distractions to so happy an Issue. But the Majority of the Rabble, still suspecting the Charters to be spurious, and that the

the Archbishop imposed upon them, as the Duke of *Mataloni* and the Prior of *Rockella* had done before, began to murmur; some of them having the Insolence to ask his Eminence, *If he came also to deceive them?* To this, the Archbishop, who was desirous at any Rate, to procure Peace to his desolate Country, answered in the most gentle Terms, and endeavoured by all the Arts of Eloquence and Persuasion, to dissipate their Doubts and convince them of their Error: He assured them, that the Charters were genuine; and protested, *That he was so far from imposing upon them, that he should think himself happy, if, with the Loss of his own Life, he could appease the Tumult, and compleat all their Wishes.* At the same Time, addressing himself to *Masaniello*, "My dear Son, says he, I do assure you, that these Charters are the very same that the Emperor Charles V. and King Ferdinand signed and sealed with their own Hands: I do not however desire you to rely upon my bare Word, but rather advise you, to put them into the Hands
of

“ of some skilful Person to peruse them,
 “ whilst I stay here ; and let him make
 “ his Report to the People. My Lord,
 “ *replied* Masaniello, I cannot call
 “ in Question your Eminence’s Honour
 “ and Goodness, which have been so con-
 “ spicuous upon all Occasions : I’ll be
 “ bound for your Eminence ; for I am
 “ fully persuaded, that like a tender
 “ Shepherd, you have no other End in
 “ the Trouble you take upon you, than
 “ the Welfare and Tranquility of your
 “ Flock : But for the further Satisfacti-
 “ on of the People, I’ll do as your Emi-
 “ nence advises.” And accordingly,
 having sent for *Julio Genovino*, the
 Charters were delivered to him in or-
 der to be examined, who after some
 Time spent thereon, declared them
 to be the true Originals desired. But
 some of the Rabble understanding,
 that the Instrument, by which the
 Viceroy confirmed the Charters of Pri-
 vileges, was not so full as they ex-
 pected, and fearing they might still
 be brought to an After-Reckoning,
 they cried out one all, “ That it
 “ was no Matter, whether the Char-
 “ ters

“ ters were Original or not, so long as
“ the Viceroy's Ratification of them was
“ lame and imperfect; *and insisted*, That
“ Articles of Capitulation should be
“ drawn up by some of their Body, and
“ that they should be signed by the Vice-
“ roy, and the several Councils and Tri-
“ bunals of the Kingdom.” The Cardinal
Archbishop was astonished at this
Demand; but however, told them, *He*
would send Word to the Viceroy to know
his Pleasure therein: According, his E-
minence dispatch'd one of the Gentle-
men of his Chamber, to the Castle, to
inform his Excellency with the People's
Pretentions. The viceroy, wisely con-
sidering, that it was in vain to contend
with Force; and desirous to see the
Troubles at an End, resolved to put
as good a Face upon it as he could;
and therefore returned an Answer in
Writing, to the Archbishop's Message,
signifying his Agreement to the Pro-
posal; and withal desiring his Emi-
nence, “ to let the most faithful Peo-
“ ple know, that whatever Articles
“ they should draw up, should not only
“ be signed as they desired, but that he
L “ would

“ would get them ratified as soon as possible by the King of Spain.

The Archbishop having communicated the Viceroy's Answer to the People, it was some Time before they could determine who to fix upon, to draw up the Articles of Capitulation: After much Cavil and Dispute, it was at length resolved, that *Genovino* should be the Man; and that the Articles should be read publickly the next Morning in the great Market-place, before they were laid before the Viceroy.

'Tis said, that one of the Articles proposed by the Rabble, was, That the Castle of *Saint Elmo* should be delivered into the People's Hands; and that *Masaniello* seemed to approve the Motion, when *Genovino* (who had been won by the secret Promises of the Viceroy) stood up and declared, “ That although the
 “ People might legally take up Arms
 “ to maintain and defend their Rights
 “ and Privileges, pursuant to the Determination of *Pisanello*, and several
 “ other of the most learned Doctors
 “ of Laws, in the Year 1547; yet,
 “ could they not insist upon the Castle
 “ of

“ *St. Elmo's* being put into their Hands,
 “ without incurring the Imputation of
 “ *Rebellion*. At the Word *Rebellion*,
 “ *Masaniello*, who had always protested,
 “ That his only Design was, to shake
 “ off the cruel Yoke of *Gabels*, and not
 “ his Allegiance to the King of *Spain*,
 “ desired, that no more might be said a-
 “ bout it, and that he had rather die,
 “ than give his Consent to a Demand,
 “ that should make him pass for a *Re-*
bel.”

This was no small Proof of *Genovino's* Influence upon the People; to oblige them to recede from an Article so prejudicial to the Interests of *Spain*, and so advantageous to the *Neapolitans*. But he gave a further Testimony of his Credit, in causing *Ciccio Arpaja*, his Antient and intimate Friend, who had been formerly condemned to the Gallies, for being concerned in the Conspiracy against the Nobility, in the Duke of *Osuna's* Time, to be made Elect of the People.

This Election was proposed by *Masaniello*, and approved of by the Rabble, who, seeing with what Zeal this

Retailer of Fish acted for the publick Good, unanimously voted *Arpaja* into that eminent Station.

The Archbishop, who had been ever since the Morning in the Church of *Carmine*, finding, that every Thing concurred to final Accommodation, retired very late to his Palace; having first obtained a Promise of *Masaniello*, Not to execute his Design, of firing that Night, Thirty-six Houses of Persons of Quality; among which were the Palaces of the Duke of *Mataloni*; the Prior of *Rochella* his Kinsman; *Don Ferrant Carrasiolo*; *Don Carlos Spinello*; *Carlos Brancaccio*; *Cornelius Spinola*; the Visitor-General; and the Prince of *Cellamare*, Chief Post-Master of the Kingdom. And in this, the good Archbishop gave an illustrious Example of Christian Charity and Forgiveness: For the forementioned Persons, had all of them been principally concerned, in the Tumult that happened the Year before, at the Procession of the Reliques of Saint *Gennarro* the Patron of *Naples*, in which his Eminence received

ceived many gross Affronts and Abuses.

July 10. Next Morning early, *Masaniello* made a general Review of the People, throughout the City of *Naples*; wherein were found 114,000 Men under Arms, besides a great Number of Citizens who were not inroll'd. In the mean Time, his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop *Filomarino* waited upon the Viceroy; and in a long and private Conference, gave him an Account of his Negotiation the preceding Day. From thence he went to the great Market-place, to be present at the reading of the Treaty of Accommodation, before the Assembly of the People.

There was now great Hopes of seeing the Distractions at an End. The Rabble, satisfied with the Vengeance they had taken, and dazzled by the Prospect of so many Immunities and Privileges they were on the Point of enjoying, abated of their former Fury, and even sigh'd after Peace. But a fatal and unexpected Accident intirely ruined these good Dispositions,

126 RISE and FALL of
and blew up the Flames of Discord to a
greater Height than ever.

Just at the very Time, when the Market-place, as well as the Church and Convent of *Carminé*, were crowded with an infinite Multitude of People, who all waited with Impatience, to learn the Success of the Negotiation; about five hundred Banditti, well armed and mounted, came into the Market-place, where they were received with great Demonstrations of Joy, upon their giving out, *That they had been sent for by Domenico Perrone, and were come for the Service of the most faithful People.*

As soon as *Masaniello* saw them, he thanked them for their good Will; and telling them to alight, appointed them different Quarters of the City, where they should “ expect his further
“ Orders a foot: *Upon which*, Perrone
“ told him, *be judged* it much more proper, to assign them a seperate Standing to themselves, and by no Means
“ to dismount them; because, being on
“ Horseback, they would be much readier to assist him in Case of Necessity” To this *Masaniello* replied
“ That

“ That it was altogether unnecessary,
“ and that they would be as servicable
to him on Foot as on Horseback.”

But, *Perrone warmly insisting upon
their going mounted, and in a Body,*
without being able to give any good
reason for it, *Masaniello* began to sus-
pect, that some dark Business was go-
ing forward; and therefore, peremp-
torily commanded the Banditti to go
Foot to the Quarters he assigned them,
and not to stir an Inch without his Or-
der.

He had no sooner spoke, but a Mus-
quet was fired off; which, *Masaniello*
looking upon as the Signal of some
Mischief, cried out, *Treason, Treason,*
There is a Plot on Foot; when five
Musquets were immediately fired upon
him, by some of the Banditti, who had
slid themselves among the Crowd that
surrounded him: And though a Bullet
or two came so near to him, as to singe
his Shirt, yet he received not the least
Hurt.

The People seeing their General alive,
and without Harm, cried out one and
all, *That God, and the Lady of Carmine,*
had protected Masaniello; and that this
Miraculous Deliverance of his Person,
was

was a manifest Token that they approved of his Undertaking : And saying so, they fell without Mercy upon the Banditti ; and having killed thirty of them upon the Spot, they pursued the rest into the Church and Convent of *Carminé*, whither they had taken Shelter. Nor could the Holiness of the Place secure them from the people's Rage ; who in an Instant, turned it into a Scene of Blood and Cruelty.

Nothing was to be heard on all Sides, but the piercing Cries of the Wounded, who, whilst they were calling for Confessors, met with the Stroke of Death. Two of them were slain at the Foot of the great Altar ; and another under the very Seat where the Archbishop was, and whither the Apprehensions of Death had hurried him. In short, the whole Pavement was soon covered with slaughtered Bodies ; among which were *Domenico Perrone* and *Gregorio Perrone*, the former having lost his Life, for being an Accomplice in the Conspiracy, and the latter, only for being Brother to the former. Captain *Antonio Grosso* lost his Life

Life also, having first declared, *That the Banditti had been sent by the Duke of Mataloni and Don Pepe Caraffa his Brother, to revenge, by the Death of Masaniello, the Insults he had received from the Rabble : That Domenico Perrone was privy to the Plot : And that several Troops more of Banditti were to come into the City at the close of Day ; who, favoured by the Night, and the Confusion which the Death of Masaniello (which they looked upon as inevitable) must necessarily create, were to fall un-awares upon the People, and cut them into Pieces.*

Some Authors who have written of the Revolutions of *Naples*, have affirmed, That *Perrone, Grosso*, others, deposed before they died, " That the
" Market place and the Convent of
" *Carmin*e were undermined ; and that
" 15,000 Pounds of Gun-powder had
" been conveyed under Ground, in
" order to blow them up, at a certain
" Hour of the Evening, when they
" should be most crowded with People ;
" by which, it was computed that up-

" wards

“wards of 150,000 Souls must have
“perished in the Shock : That those
“whom the Flames should spare, were
“to be put to the Sword, as well by
“the Banditti who were already entered
“the City, as by several Companies
“more, who were appointed to join
“them in the Evening, by Order of
“the Duke of *Motaloni* and *Don Pepe*
“*Caraffa*, the principal Authors of the
“Conspiracy.

But whoever examines these Things thoroughly, will find, that they are not only false in Fact, but even assured and inconsistent with Reason. For, it is certain, that *Perrone* was so incapable of making these Dispositions, that the Rabble, who found him hid in the Convent, (where he had betaken himself as soon as he perceived the Banditti had miscarried in their Attempt) killed him outright, and cut off his Head, without giving him so much as Time to speak one Word : Neither is there any reasonable Man, who can imagine, that in less than 24 Hours, and at a Juncture, when the suspicious Rabble were always upon their Guard, the Conspirators could have found Means to dig so many Mines, and stow them with vast
Quan-

Quantities of Powder. Not but I very well know, that these pretended Depositions, however false and ridiculous, were palmed upon, and credited by an ignorant Rabble, and even countenanced by *Masaniello*; who, to give the better Colour to an Imposture, that served so well to inflame the People's Resentment and Hatred against the Nobility, contented himself with inflicting no other Punishment on one or two of the Banditti, than perpetual Banishment; upon Pretence, that they had made the forementioned, and other important Discoveries.

* The Rabble had soon put to Death 150 Banditti; and having dragged their Carcases through all the Streets and Kennels of the City, they brought their Heads to *Masaniello*, who commanded them, together with those of *Perrons*, and his Brother, to be fixed upon Poles in the Middle of the great Market-place And this Order was executed accordingly.

* *Girassy* says that all the Aqueducts and Reservoirs in *Naples* were Poisoned, and that several Persons died with drinking the Waters: But as this Assertion carries the same Objections with it as the former, I shall content myself with having barely mentioned it.

One would think, the spilling of so much Blood, would atone for the greatest Inhumanity, and that People, after having sacrificed so many Lives to their Resentments, would have stopped here, and gone no further. But *Masaniello*, esteeming his Work but half compleated, so long as he had not in his Power, the Duke of *Mataloni* and *Don Pepe Caraffa*, used his utmost Endeavours to find out the Place that contained them; fully determined, to glut his Vengeance with the Death of two Brothers, who had conspired against his Life. To this End, he ordered several Companies of Horse and Foot, to go in Search of the rest of the Conspirators, who had fled to several Churches, and Monasteries for the Benefit of Refuge; but more especially, in *Santa Maria de la nova*, where he was informed, that *Don Pepe Caraffa*, and the Prior of *Rocella* had also betaken themselves, to avoid, if possible, the Fury of an incensed Populace.

Just as the Companies were disposing themselves to march, or rather to fly where

where their General's Commands, and their own Animosities led them; Advice was brought to *Masaniello*, that the Duke of *Mataloni* was at *St. Efrem*, which is a Church belonging to the *Capuchin* Friars. The Generalissimo was overjoy'd at this News; and resolving, not to lose for Want of Strength, this Opportunity of getting into his Power, an Enemy to whom he bore a most inveterate Hatred, he added a fresh Detachment to the former, which together made up a Body of 4,000 Men all armed; and dispatched them to *St. Efrem*, with positive Orders, to bring the Duke to him alive or dead. But the Duke, more fortunate, having timely Notice of their March by a Spy, made his Escape in a Friar's Weeds, and got safe out of the City, where he took Horse, and made the best of his Way to *Benevento*.

The Mob being come to *St. Efrem*, and seeing themselves disappointed, sent several Ways after him, in Hopes to overtake him: But their Pursuit was in vain; for being well mounted, he had made such Speed, that

N

they

they could get no Tidings of him. In the mean Time, they steer their Course towards the Monastery of *Santa Maria*, where *Don Pepe Caraffa*, and the Prior of *Rocella* had retir'd; who, next to the Duke of *Mataloni*, were the principal Objects of the Peoples Rage and Indignation. As the blood-thirsty Rabble went in Pursuit of these, they met some of the Duke's Pages and other Domesticks, whose ill-star'd Fate had brought in their Way, and whom, without having any Regard to their Innocence or their Prayers, they murder'd every one upon the Spot. This Tragedy being ended, with redoubled Speed, they continue their March to *Santa Maria*, where the Prior of *Rocella*, who foresaw the approaching Danger, was exhorting his Brother *Don Pepe* to forsake the Convent, and fly with him to some Place of greater Safety: But he, over-ruled by his hard Destiny, and thinking himself as safe there as in any other Place, refused to go: Wherefore, the Prior seeing he was resolved, told him, he wish'd him a happy Deliverance; and after

a short Embrace, with Tears in his Eyes, he took his Leave. Scarce was the Prior gone, when the furious Rabble surprized the Place; and bursting open the Gates, rushed into the Monastery, stripping and examining every Room and Corner of it one after another. *Don Pepe* being now, though too late, sensible of the Danger that threatned him, betook himself to the most retired Part of the Monastery, from whence he wrote a Letter to the Viceroy, acquainting him, " with the Straights he was put
" to, and desiring his Excellency, to
" command a Cannon or two to be
" fired without Shot upon the Mob,
" only to scare them and make them
" disperse, whilst he should attempt
" an Escape." This Letter he delivered into the Hands of a Secular Priest, a Confident of his, promising him a great Reward, if he could but convey it to the Castle. But, as ill-Luck would have it, the Priest was stopp'd as he was going out, and strictly searched by the Rabble, who, finding the Letter in one of his Shoes, dispatch'd him upon the

Spot and went in quest of *Caraffa*, who, they were now more certainly assured, was within. This unfortunate Man, seeing himself close pursued, and knowing, that the greatest Favour he could expect from the unmerciful Populace, was present Death, resolved to make another Push for his Life : And accordingly, having first changed his Habit, he threw himself out of a Back-Window, from whence he stole into a House hard by the Convent, and hid himself under a Bed. But his Reprieve was but very short ; for whether he was seen to go in, or whether (as some say, and is most probable) a Woman that dwelt there, discovered him to the People in Hopes of a Recompence, he was soon found out by the Mob, and dragg'd into the Street ; where, after he was covered over with Wounds, one *Michel de Sanctis*, a Butcher's Son, cut off his Head with a Chopping-Knife.

The Joy of the Rabble was as great upon this Occasion, as if they had obtained some signal Victory. They fixed the Head of *Caraffa* upon

a Pike, and bore it in Triumph to the Market-place, (the Body being dragg'd through the Kennels after it) crying as they went along, *Thus may all those perish, that are Traitors to the most faithful People.* The Head was presented to *Masaniello*, who, taking it into one Hand, and striking it several Times with a Cane which he held in the other, made a Speech to it, wherein he upbraided *Caraffa* with the *Pride and Cruelty which he had shewn upon several Occasions*, as if he had been still living. This ill tim'd Reproof being ended, *Masaniello* order'd the Heads of all the Banditti, that were taken in *Santa Maria de la Nova*, and other Monasteries, to be fixed upon Poles in the Market-place, with those that were exposed there already: But the Head of *Caraffa*, he commanded to be put in an Iron Grate; and, together with the Foot that had kick'd the Archbishop in the Procession already mentioned, to be nailed to a Post erected for that Purpose, without the Gate of *St. Gennaro*, facing the

the Duke of *Mataloni's* Palace, with this Inscription underneath.

DON PEPE CARAFFA,
REBEL TO HIS COUNTRY,
AND TRAITOR TO THE
MOST FAITHFUL PEOPLE.

This Tragical Adventure made different Impressions upon the Minds of those who were Witnesses of it. The People beheld it with unspeakable Pleasure and Satisfaction; but the Nobles were equally struck with Fear and Horror at the Thought of it: They knew not what to think, or what expect, after such a terrible Example had been made of one of their Order, who at other Times, used to make the whole City, nay, the very Kingdom tremble at his Name: And what increased their Apprehensions still the more, was, that since the Discovery of the Banditti's Plot, the better Sort of Citizens, who, as yet, had had no Hand in the Tumult, now rise in Arms, and joined themselves to the Rabble.* The Vice-Roy, indeed, put

* Com. de Mod.

a more favourable Construction upon this Event; and was even of Opinion, that the Consequence would infallibly turn to the advantage of *Spain*. He fancied the People were so wholly taken up in wreaking their Hatred and Rage upon the Nobility, that they would of course drop their first Design, and make no further Incroachments upon the Sovereign Authority; and that the Rupture, which the Death of Don *Pepe Caraffa*, would certainly occasion between the Nobles and the Commons, would reduce them to the Necessity of chusing the King of *Spain* for Umpire of their Difference; who had been heretofore equally the Aversion of both these Orders of the State. From all which, he concluded, That, in case one of the Factions should declare itself against the King of *Spain*, the other in Opposition, would stick by him; and therefore he could not lose the Whole, so long as one Half should be on his Side.

Whilst the Viceroy was making these political Reflections, *Masaniello*, from his Tribunal in the Market-place, environ'd with Heads and bloody Carcasses,

cases, was thundering against the Nobility: And not satisfied with the Death of *Caraffa*, he issued out a Proclamation, whereby he declared *the Duke of Mataloni an Enemy to the most faithful People; promising a Reward of thirty thousand Crowns, with the Ransom of one hundred and fifty Outlaws, for the apprehending of him.* As the Fisherman was grown very diffident and suspicious since the Discovery of the Conspiracy against his Person, he made no Scruple to believe, that, it had been contriv'd by, or, at least, carried on with the Consent and Approbation of the Viceroy; and therefore he determin'd to reduce him to such Straights, as should at once revenge him, and force the Viceroy to accept of whatever Conditions he should think fit to impose upon him; taking, at the same Time, all possible Precautions, to screen himself from the Resentment and Artifices of the Nobility, against which, he thought he could not too well fortify himself. To this End, he publish'd an Order, *prohibiting upon pain of Death and Firing, all Persons to convey, or*

cause

cause to be conveyed, any Provision, or Victuals of any Kind whatsoever, into the Castle, where the Viceroy was in a manner pent up, with the Dutcheſs his Wife, the Collateral Council, and the Council of State, and the greatest Part of the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom: And, as if he intended to make them perish with Thirst, as well as Hunger, he caused all the Aqueducts to be cut off, that used to serve for the Conveyance of Water to the Castle. - To this Order he added several others, commanding upon pain of Death and Firing, That all the Nobles who were in the City, should deliver up their Arms into the Hands of certain Officers appointed for that Purpose: That the City-Gates should be all shut up, and nobody suffered to pass or re-pass, without a special Order from the General: That diligent Search should be made after the Banditti who were concealed in Naples: And, That, in Order to prevent them from making any Attempt in the Night-time, great Piles of Faggots and Stubble should be burnt in all the Streets and publick

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 publick*

publick Places: That all the Windows throughout the City and Suburbs, should be illuminated; and the People be up in Arms.

All these Orders were as punctually and as diligently executed, as the great Sultan's Commands are in *Constantinople*. The Blood of *Caraffa* had so strongly cemented the Fisherman's Authority, that commanding, and being obeyed, was to him but one and the same Thing: For, what the People did out of Love to their Chief, the Nobles did it through Fear of him. So that almost in an Instant all the Houses in *Naples*, as well those of Noblemen as others, put up Lights in their Windows: Whole Loads of Timber, and other combustible Materials, were piled up, and set on fire in every Street and Corner; and the Night was soon changed into bright Day. The other Orders were all obeyed with equal Exactness and Celerity. But nothing more evidently discovers how much Deference was paid to the Commands of *Masaniello*, than the Strictness with which another

another Order of his was universally complied with, *injoining under a severe Penalty, all Persons, of what Condition or Dignity soever, to walk in Cuerdo, or without Upper Garments; for fear any disguised, or suspected Persons, should conceal any Arms under them.* This Order was no sooner published, but Men of all Professions, as well Laicks as Ecclesiasticks, such as Gentlemen of the Long Robe, Magistrates, Priests, Judges, Bishops, Canons, and Dignitaries of the Cathedral Churches, all appeared in the Streets in this ridiculous and indecent Manner. Nay, the very Purple of the Cardinals *Trivultio* and *Filomarino*, was obliged to submit itself to the Ordinance of a Retailer of Fish. I had almost forgot, that the Women too were injoin'd by this Order, to wear no Tails to their Gowns, nor appear abroad without having their Petticoats tuck'd up above their Knees; it having been discovered, that several Men had disguised themselves in Womens Apparel, for the more secret Conveyance
of

of Arms, to the Outlaws, and other Enemies of the People.

Masaniello having issued out these seasonable Orders, and put in Use all other necessary Expedients, to prevent the Nobility or the Outlaws from executing any Design they might have in View; he dispatched Couriers to several Parts of the Country, and to most of the Towns and Villages round about; ordering them, *to send the choicest of their Men well armed, for the Defence of the City and Suburbs.* All obeyed; and vast Numbers soon flocked from all the adjacent Places, in order to range themselves under the Fisherman's Banners. In short, so great was the Peoples Love for him, and so prevailing the Terror which he had struck into the Hearts of the Nobility, by the severe Example he had made of *Caraffa*; that whilst the former were flying, to execute the Commands of their Leader, the latter were so far from opposing them, that, excepting those who had retired to *Castelnovo* with the Viceroy, they had, for the most part, intrenched themselves within their

their own Country-Seats, waiting, under the most dismal Apprehensions, the Issue of this grand Affair.

July 11. The Viceroy seeing that *Masaniello* treated him with Sword in Hand, and fearing that the Storm which had so long hovered over his Head, should at last burst upon him and overwhelm him, resolved, upon any Terms, to conclude the Treaty of Accommodation; not doubting but Time and Cunning would furnish him with an Opportunity of breaking any Engagements, that should prove a Prejudice to his own, or the Interests of *Spain*. But, to effect it with Success, he judg'd it expedient, to remove first of all, the Suspicion, which the People had, of his being of Intelligence with the Conspirators: And to this end, he writ a Letter to the Archbishop, wherein he disclaimed his having any Part in the late Conspiracy; protesting his utmost Abhorrence of it, and promising to deliver up into the Peoples Hands, as many of the Banditti as he should lay Hold of: He concluded, with assuring his Eminence, That he had
O nothing

nothing so much at Heart, as the Peace of the City, and the Good of the People; and therefore desir'd him to finish the Treaty as soon as possible.

This Letter, which the Archbishop shewed to *Masaniello*, had its desired Effect. The People began to believe the Viceroy was innocent, and abated very much of their former Rage and Insolence. But his Excellency, willing to give them still a more authentick Testimony of the Sincerity of his Intentions, issued out an Order, *commanding upon Pain of Death all the Banditti that were in the City and Suburbs, to depart instantly; and proscribing all Persons that should receive, and conceal them in their Habitations.*

Thus, the Treaty, which had been interrupted by so many different and unlucky Accidents, was now in a fair Way of being brought to a Conclusion, thro' the Archbishop's Care, or rather, the Subtilty and Craft of *Genovino*. This old Fox, who, tho' a sworn Enemy to the Government, had still more Ambition in him than Animosity,

Animosity, wavered almost as soon as he engaged himself in the Sedition : For, whether like most Heads of Factions, he join'd himself to the Malecontents, only in Hopes of growing rich with the Spoils of the State ; or, whether he did not think it safe, to rely upon the Affection of an inconstant Rabble ; he had not been long near *Masaniello's* Person, as his Counsellor, before he listened to the secret Promises the Viceroy made him of Favour and Preferment. The Viceroy having made sure of him, he carried on his Interests with the greater Efficacy, inasmuch as he had always professed an inveterate Aversion to the *Spaniards* ; and having, according to the Instructions given him by the Duke of *Arcos*, fomented the Misunderstanding between the Nobles and the Commons, he now managed with great Art and Dexterity the Treaty of Accommodation in Favour of the *Spanish* Court. But more of this hereafter.

Whilst the Archbishop and *Genovino* were putting the last Hand to the Capitulations, another Accident

happened, that had like to have frustrated their Labour, and broken off the Treaty; so true it is, that the most critical Interval of Time, is that which is taken up in capitulating. The Gallies of *Naples* being descried at the Peak of *Posilippo*, which is at no great Distance from the City, the People immediately took the Alarm, suspecting they were freighted with Troops, and had been sent for on Purpose by the Viceroy. But the Archbishop, being informed of their Fears, and knowing of what ill Consequence it would be, to give the People Umbrage at this Juncture, writ to the Viceroy, desiring his Excellency *to order the Gallies to keep at Sea, and not to come into the Harbour, till the Treaty should be finished, and the Distractions brought to a Period.* The Viceroy very much approved the Archbishop's Advice, and presently sent him an Order for *Doria*, the Admiral; whereby he enjoined him *not to make to Land, but to do in all Things as Masaniello should require.* As soon as *Doria* had received this Order, he
sent

sent one of his Officers to pay his Respects to *Masaniello*, and to receive his Commands: Upon which, the General signified his Pleasure, *that he might ride at Anchor within a Mile of the Port, provided he suffered none of his Men to come ashore.* The People were wonderfully pleased with this Proceeding of the Viceroy, who intirely removed by it, the Suspicion which the sudden Arrival of the Galleys might justly create in them.

The Treaty of Accommodation was at length perfected, and fairly drawn up by *Genovino*; and, upon its being read, receiv'd the Approbation of *Masaniello*, and the other Ringleaders of the Rabble. The Archbishop (who, since *Tuesday* Morning resided altogether in the Convent of *Carmina*; that he might with more Ease negotiate with the People) deputed Father *Francisco Filomarino*, his Eminence's Brother, with the Articles, to the Viceroy, in Order to their being signed, not only by his Excellency, but also by all the Members and Officers of the Collateral Council and the Council of State; and at the same

same Time, to acquaint him with the People's Desire, *that the Treaty, after its being sign'd, might be solemnly published in the Cathedral Church, in Presence of his Excellency, and all the several Orders and Tribunals of the City.*

The Duke of Arcos read, and maturely weigh'd the Articles that were brought him to be signed; the Substance of which was, " That the
 " People should from that Time for-
 " ward enjoy all the Benefits, Privi-
 " leges, and Immunities, granted to
 " them by the Emperor Charles V.
 " and King Ferdinand, according to
 " the Purport and Meaning of the
 " Original Charters, which should
 " hereafter remain in their Hands:
 " That all Excesses and Outrages,
 " committed from the 7th of July,
 " when the Insurrection began, to the
 " Day of the Date of these Articles,
 " should be pardoned by a general
 " Amnesty: That the Elect, as well
 " as the Counsellors and Deputies of
 " the People, and other inferior Of-
 " ficers therein specified, should be
 " chosen every Six Months, by the
 " Commons,

“ Commons, without Need of fur-
 “ ther Confirmation: That the said
 “ Elect should have as many Voices
 “ as all the Nobility together, as it
 “ used to be, before they had been
 “ stripp’d of this Privilege by Don
 “ *Frederick*, and which the most
 “ Catholick King *Ferdinand* had, in
 “ the Year 1505, promised to re-
 “ store to them: That the Viceroy
 “ should cause the said Articles to be
 “ ratified by the King of *Spain*, with-
 “ in Three Months after their Pub-
 “ lication; and that they should be
 “ ingraven in Marble, and set up in
 “ the Middle of the Great Market-
 “ place: That the People should
 “ not lay down their Arms, till the
 “ said Confirmation of their Privileges:
 “ And, lastly, That in Case they
 “ could not obtain such a Ratification,
 “ and the Execution of the said
 “ Articles and Privileges, they might
 “ with Impunity, rise in Arms, and
 “ strive to redress themselves, with-
 “ out being deem’d guilty of Rebel-
 “ lion, or Irreverence, to the King of
 “ *Spain*.”

Altho’

Altho' the Viceroy knew well enough, that these Articles were going to ruin Fourscore and Ten Thousand Persons, that were concerned in the Gabels; and what was still worse, that the Ministers hereafter could not raise any more Subsidies, nor oppress the Subject, to support their Ambition and Luxury; yet, he signed them with a smiling Countenance, and gave them to the Collateral Council, and the Council of State, who, having signed them also in their Turns, his Excellency returned them to Father *Francisco*, with the following Letter to the Archbishop.

Most Eminent,

TH E Success with which it has pleased God to crown your Eminence's Negotiations, gives me the greatest Pleasure and Satisfaction: Nor is it less than what I always expected from your Lordship's great Care and Zeal for the Publick Good. I congratulate your Eminence thereupon; and beseech you to complete the Work which you have so happily begun, by a Solemn Promulgation

gation of the Treaty, as desir'd by the People. Your Eminence knows of what Importance it is, to perform this Ceremony as soon as possible, and that, the Delay of it cannot but be attended with many fatal Consequences. I need not therefore give your Eminence any further Caution concerning it. As for my Part, as nothing is so dear to me, as the Peace of the Kingdom, and the Good of the People, I have chearfully granted them all their Demands, and am still ready to give them what further Satisfaction they can desire. God preserve your Eminence many Years.

I am,

The greatest Servant

of Your Eminence,

The Duke of Arcos.

From Castelnuovo,
this 11th Day
of July, 1647.

Father

Father *Francisco*, having delivered the Articles of Capitulation sign'd by the Viceroy, into the Hands of the Archbishop, together with his Excellency's Letter, told him, *That the Viceroy desired passionately to see Masaniello, and pray'd his Eminence to manage an Interview between them.* The Archbishop, therefore, in Compliance with the Viceroy's Desire, used his best Endeavours to persuade *Masaniello*, who, as well as the other Leaders, seem'd at first very averse to it; but his Eminence, by the Force of his Reasons, at length prevail'd; and it was appointed, that the Articles of Capitulation should be read publickly about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, and that *Masaniello* should afterwards go, in Company with the Archbishop, to pay his Respects to the Viceroy.

It was no sooner noised abroad, that *the Treaty was concluded and signed, and that Masaniello was to go to the Palace, to make a Visit to the Viceroy*, but the Market-place, as well as the Church and Convent of the Carmelites, were filled with Multitudes

tudes of the Rabble, who, according to their natural Inconstancy, which makes them susceptible of every new Impression, by their Huzzas and Acclamations of Joy, approved that Peace, which, but a few Hours before, they were so averse to. The Capitulations were read aloud, by a Notary, in the Church of *Carminé*; the Cardinal Archbishop being there present, with *Masaniello*, *Genovino*, *Arpaja* the new Elect, and infinite Numbers of People, who, by their repeated *Io's*, seemed to give their Assent to them, and seal the Peace: *Genovino* then went up into the Pulpit; and after having made a short Speech, wherein he extoll'd *the Advantages of Peace*, and exhorted the Assembly to give God Thanks, for his wonderful Mercies, in terminating the Distractions, and reducing the City to a State of Exemption and Tranquility, he came down again; and the Whole concluded with a *Te Deum*, which was sung by two Choirs of Musicians whose Voices were accompanied with the sweet Melody of all Kind of Instruments.

The

The Ceremony being ended, The Archbishop, and the Chief Officers of the People, set forward for the Viceroy's Palace. *Masaniello*, who, at the Archbishop's Persuasion, had thrown off his Mariner's Dress, appeared on Horseback, with a magnificent Habit, a tow'ring Plume of Feathers in his Hat, and a drawn Sword in his Hand; and thus accoutred, rid before the Archbishop's Coach: His Brother, also, in a rich embroidered Suit, rid on the Right Side of his Eminence; and *Arpaja* Tribune of the Commons on the Left: *Julio Genovino* came last, followed by 160 Companies of Horse and Foot, consisting in all of about 50,000 Men. It would be hard to tell how many Praises and Blessings were bestow'd upon the Fisherman, as he pass'd along the Streets, by one and the other Sex, who out of a grateful Sense of the great Deliverance he had wrought for them, justly honoured him with the Glorious and Deserved Title of THE SAVIOUR OF HIS COUNTRY. Nor did they

they express their Gratitude by their Words more than by their Actions. The Men strewed the Way before him with Palm and Olive Branches; and the Ladies from their Windows and Balconies, which were hung with the richest Silks and Tapestry, curtesied as he went by, and throwed down Flowers and Garlands, which they had made on Purpose: The Air was fill'd with the ravishing Harmony of peaceful and soft-sounding Instruments, and nothing was to be heard, but universal Sounds of Joy and Triumph.

Masaniello being arrived, amidst so much Praise and Applause, to *Castell-novo*, the Captain of the Viceroy's Guard came out to salute him, in the Name of his Excellency, and bid him a *Welcome* to the Palace. *Amalphi* gravely, and in few Words, return'd the Compliment; and then making a Sign to the People, that they should be silent, he address'd himself to them in the Manner following:

P

My

My dear Companions and Countrymen,

“ L E T us joyfully offer up our
 “ Praises and Thanksgivings to
 “ God, and the most Gracious Lady
 “ of *Carminé*; for the Recovery of our
 “ former Liberty; that dear, that pre-
 “ cious Liberty, which makes the Me-
 “ mory of those Glorious Monarchs,
 “ *Ferdinand* and *Charles V.* to be of
 “ so great Veneration amongst us. Now
 “ shall we see revive those Golden Days
 “ which made our Fore-fathers glad
 “ under their auspicious Sway: Like
 “ them, we shall be———nay, we
 “ are already, like them, exempt and
 “ free from all Gabels and Impositions:
 “ No more shall we groan under the
 “ cruel and intolerable Oppression of
 “ inhumane, blood-thirsty Governors:
 “ No longer toil and slave, like Beasts
 “ of Burden, to feed the Pride and
 “ Luxury of ambitious and haughty
 “ Tyrants: Henceforth, every Man
 “ shall enjoy the Fruits of his own
 “ Labour and Industry, and Peace
 “ and Plenty shall for ever flourish
 “ in

" in *Naples*. I see, my Friends, a so-
 " lemn Joy sits upon all your Brows ;
 " and well may you rejoice for so noble
 " an Acquisition. For, who is the
 " Brute that has the publick Good so
 " little at Heart, as not to overflow
 " with Gladness upon this great Oc-
 " casion? If there * be any such, let
 " them die like Dogs, unpitied, un-
 " lamented ; and may an everlasting
 " Brand of Infamy be fixed upon their
 " Names. As for us, my beloved
 " Countrymen, let us from this Mo-
 " ment banish all Sorrow from our
 " Hearts : Let us ever commemorate
 " this great, this happy Day, in which
 " we recover our Rights, our Privi-
 " leges, our Freedom, our Lives, our
 " All. Does not this sudden, this
 " blessed Change surprize you my dear
 " Associates ? Lost in Transport and
 " Amazement, do you not look upon
 " it as on a pleasing Dream, and al-
 " most doubt whether you are awake?
 " Yes, I know you do. But see † my
 P 2 " Friends,

* Alluding to the Publicans, who were quite ruin'd by this Restoration of Privileges.

† Holding out the Original Charters.

“ Friends, this is no Illusion: Be-
 “ hold here the sacred and substantial
 “ Pledges of those immense Benefits
 “ we boast; this the Gift of the
 “ Emperor *Charles V.* and this, of
 “ Royal *Ferdinand*; whose great Shades
 “ even now rejoice, to see us, their
 “ After-Subjects, happy in the Posses-
 “ sion of those Blessings which we de-
 “ rive from them. Dreams vanish
 “ away in an Instant, but These shall
 “ stand for ever. — But do not think
 “ that I dwell thus on the great Ad-
 “ vantages, which, by my Toils and
 “ Fatigues, I have procur’d for you,
 “ to enhance the Merit of my Actions,
 “ in hopes of being rewarded for them:
 “ No, I esteem the Pleasure and the
 “ Glory of being instrumental to the
 “ Good of my Country, a far greater
 “ Recompence than all the Wealth in
 “ the Universe; and, that that alone
 “ has spur’d me on, and been the sole
 “ Aim of this successful Undertaking,
 “ let his Eminence the Archbishop wit-
 “ ness for me: He has experienc’d my
 “ Disinterestedness, in my Refusal of
 “ the Two Hundred Crowns a Month,
 “ which

“ which, in the first Day of the Revo-
 “ lution, he offered to settle upon me,
 “ during Life, if I would but calm
 “ your Resentments, and make you
 “ desist from your just Pretensions.
 “ Nor, even at this Time, should I
 “ have thrown off my tatter’d Weeds,
 “ to assume this gaudy Magnificence,
 “ had not his Eminence, for Decency’s
 “ Sake, and upon pain of Excommu-
 “ nication, obliged me to it. No, no,
 “ I am still *Masaniello* the Fisherman;
 “ such was I born, such have I liv’d
 “ hitherto, and such I intend to live
 “ and die. And after having fished
 “ for, and caught the Publick Liberty,
 “ in that tempestuous Sea wherein it
 “ had been immersed so long, I’ll re-
 “ turn to my former Condition; re-
 “ serving nothing for myself, but my
 “ Hook and Line, with which to pro-
 “ vide daily for the necessary Support
 “ of the Remainder of my Life. The
 “ only Favour I shall desire of you, in
 “ Token of Acknowledgement for all
 “ my Labours is, That when I am
 “ dead, you will each of you say an
 “ *Ave Maria* for me: Do you promise

“ me this?” The People answer’d,
Yes, but let it be an Hundred Tears hence.
Masaniello replied, “ My Friends, I
 “ thank you; and as a farther Testi-
 “ mony of my Love to you, and my
 “ Adherence to your Interests, I will
 “ give you two Words of Advice: The
 “ first is, Not to lay down your Arms,
 “ till the Confirmation of your Privi-
 “ leges arrives from *Spain*: The se-
 “ cond, That above all Things, you
 “ would mistrust the Nobility, who
 “ have always been our sworn and pro-
 “ fessed Enemies: Take Care of them,
 “ and be upon your Guard; for, like
 “ hungry Wolves, they’ll watch an
 “ Opportunity, when you are defence-
 “ less, to fall upon you and devour
 “ you.——I am now going to nego-
 “ ciate with the Viceroy, and shall soon
 “ be with you again; at least, before
 “ Tomorrow Morning; but, if you
 “ do not see me then, you may set fire
 “ to the Palace:” Whereupon they
 having all promised him *they would do*
it; he concluded his judicious Har-
 rangue, with amplifying very much
 upon “ the Advantages that would ac-
 “ crue

" crue to the King of *Spain*, by the
 " Abolishment of the Gabels; which
 " being prejudicial only to the Parti-
 " sans, those insatiable Leeches, that
 " had sucked the purest of their Blood,
 " His Majesty should, for the Time to
 " come; enjoy his Revenues intire,
 " which, hitherto, used to be almost
 " wholly absorb'd by his Ministers."

This emphatical and sarcastic Speech
 being ended, and the Archbishop hav-
 ing, at *Masaniello's* Request, given his
 Blessing to the People, the General com-
 manded them, under Pain of Disobe-
 dience, to follow him no further; and
 then went into the Palace with the
 Archbishop, *Genovino*, *Arpaja*, and *Ma-
 teo d' Amalphi* his Brother. His Excel-
 lency, the Viceroy, stood ready at the
 Stairs-Head to receive them. As soon
 as *Masaniello* saw him, he threw himself
 at his Feet, and having kissed them,
 and thanked his Excellency, in the
 Name of all the People, for his *gracious
 Approbation of the Treaty*, he told him,
 he was come thither to receive *whatso-
 ever Sentence his Excellency should think*

fit to pass upon him. But the Viceroy, raising him up, and embracing him, answer'd, *that he was very glad to see him, and was so far from thinking he was criminal, that he would give him daily Proofs of his Favour and Esteem.* To this Masaniello replied, *that God was his Witness, that the only Scope, and End of all his Designs, was the Service of the King and of his Excellency:* After which, the Viceroy, the Archbishop, and Masaniello, retired all three into a private Apartment, in order to consult together upon the present Posture of Affairs.

During this Conference, there happen'd an Incident, which sufficiently gave the Spaniards to understand, how much the People esteemed Masaniello, and how anxious they were for his Safety. A great Concourse of People, whom the Rumour of Masaniello's Visit, and the Curiosity of seeing their General in his new and splendid Equipage, had drawn together from several Parts, having resorted to the Palace-Yard, where they staid a considerable Time without seeing him appear, began to murmur, fearing that some Mischance

was

was befallen their Chief, and that the Viceroy had violated his Faith to him, and caused him to be arrested, or perhaps murdered. The Murmur increased; and the Rabble grew at last so clamorous, that their Noise reach'd the Viceroy's Ears, who being inform'd of the Reason of it, to appease the Tumult, immediately shewed himself with his Company in a Balcony, where *Masaniello* having assur'd the Multitude; *that he was safe, and under no manner of Restraint*, they all cried out, *Long live the King of Spain, long live the Duke of Arcos*. The Fisherman then told his Excellency, *he would presently let him see how obedient the Neapolitans were*; and, at the same time, putting his Finger to his Mouth, the Rabble ceased their Cry; a profound Silence immediately followed; and, among so great a Multitude, there was scarce one of them seen to breathe: Then commanding, *upon pain of Rebellion, that every Soul there should retire*, the Court-Yard was cleared, as it were, in an Instant, and not a Man left upon the Place.

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The Viceroy, having considered with no small Surprize, this Kind of a Miracle, renewed the Conference with the Archbishop and Masaniello; wherein it was resolved, *That the Capitulations, that had been signed by the Viceroy, and the Collateral Council, and the Council of State, should be forthwith printed, and that on the Saturday following they should be again read publickly in the Cathedral Church. After which his Excellency, the Councils aforesaid, and all the Officers and Magistrates of the Kingdom, should take a Solemn Oath to observe them inviolably for ever; as also, to obtain the Ratification of them, as soon as possible, from his Catholick Majesty.* The Conference then broke up; and the Viceroy having made several Protestations of Friendship and Esteem to Masaniello, and withal assured him, that he was much beholden to him, for that by his strict Severity, he had rid the City of so many Ruffians and Outlaws: He ended, by telling him, that as he highly approved his Conduct hitherto, so now, he left
the

the Management of Affairs wholly to his Care and Wisdom. Whether these last Words were seriously spoken by the Viceroy, or only by way of Compliment; 'tis certain, *Masaniello* interpreted them so much to his Advantage, that from that Moment to the last of his Life, he acted, and in all Respects govern'd, as if he had been King of *Naples*; settling, and deciding, of his own private Authority, all Matters both Civil and Military. But the Viceroy did not dismiss *Masaniello*, without conferring upon him some more substantial Marks of his Favour, than Compliments and fair Speeches only; for he made him a Present of a Golden Chain, which indeed he several Times refused; but, at the Archbishop's earnest Solicitation, at length accepting of it, he was at the same Time, by his Excellency, created Duke of *St. George*. The Viceroy accompanied this great Honour, with many Caresses, which probably were meant only to amuse *Masaniello*; who, after having kissed the Viceroy's Knee, and taken his Leave, waited

waited upon the Archbishop as far as his Palace; and from thence retired in his Eminence's Coach, pretty late in the Evening, to his own House, attended by a numberless Throng of People, who, by their Acclamations, Bonfires, and ringing of Bells, gave publick Demonstrations of their Joy and Gratitude.

July 12. The Day following, *Masaniello* issued out a Proclamation, whereby he declared, *That the Office of Captain General, to which the People had promoted him, had been confirmed to him by the Viceroy*: And, at the same Time, causing another Tribunal to be erected in *Toledo Street*, and set out with all manner of Instruments used in Executions, he appointed a Deputy to act there under him; and applied himself with as much Ardor, and more Authority than ever, to the exterminating the Banditti, and the punishing of Offenders, which he did with so much rigid Justice, that, among other Examples of his Severity, a Baker who had made his Bread some Ounces lighter than the Assize, was by him
 177127
 adjudged

adjudged to be burnt alive in his own Oven; and the Sentence was executed accordingly.

Nor was the Fisherman so intirely taken up in the rigorous Pursuit of the Outlaws, and other flagitious Persons, but he revived, this Morning, several Bans and Orders formerly published; and exhibited many new ones, relating to the Polity and Civil Government of the City. Among these was, *An Order commanding all Persons within an Hour of Night, to retire to their respective Dwellings: An Order for Tradesmen and Shop-keepers to open their Shops on the Morrow, and follow their Occupations as usual: An Order that Strangers, as well as Natives, do put up the Arms of the King of Spain on the Right-Hand of their Gates, and those of the most Faithful People on the Left: And whereas, since the Beginning of the Troubles, several Noblemen, Cavaliers, and Ladies, had betaken themselves to divers Convents, Nunneries, and other Religious Houses, in order to avoid the Fury of a distracted Multitude; another Order*

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was

was publish'd by *Masaniello*, commanding them forthwith to repair to their own Houses. All these Orders, (together with many more too tedious and too minute to mention) being affixed to Posts and publick Buildings, and subscribed *THOMAS ANIELLO d'Amalphi*, Head and Captain General of the most Faithful People of Naples, were obeyed with wondrous Exactness, by Persons of every Rank and Quality. And indeed, our Fisherman, who knew of what ill Consequence it would be, to suffer the Crime of Disobedience to go unpunished, would never have pardon'd the least Infringement of any of his Commands: He was satisfied, that nothing was so requisite in the carrying on his great Design, as the exact Obedience of the People, and therefore, from the very Beginning of the Insurrection, he chiefly applied himself to form them to it; and he wisely judg'd, with *Epaminondas*, That the Obedience of the Soldier is the firmest Basis and Support of a General; whose Arms, with this Advantage, can seldom fail of Success.

But,

But, since I have mentioned the Name of *Epaminondas*, I shall take the Liberty to introduce a memorable Story of that great Man, which, as it is pertinent to our Subject, will not, I hope, be unacceptable to the Reader. This renowned General of the *Thebans*, being on the Point of giving Battle to the *Greeks*, was by the Oracle advised to defer the Engagement, because the Stars portended an entire Defeat of his Army, and on the contrary, promised a successful Event to his Enemies. But *Epaminondas*, whose Wisdom equall'd his Courage, bethought himself of an ingenious Device, by which he advanced his Glory in Spite of the malignant Influence of the Stars. The Stratagem was this: He writ in a Pair of Tablets, *If you obey your Leaders, the Oracle declares you Victorious*; and in other Tablets he writ, *If you obey not your Leaders, the Oracle denounces Destruction*; and then caused these Oracles to be presented to his Soldiers, who, finding that Success and Victory depended upon their Obedience to their Commander,

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with uncommon Bravery forced the Intrenchment of the Enemy, and came back triumphant.

While *Masaniello* was issuing out Orders, hearing of Complaints, receiving Petitions, and passing Decrees, Information was given him by his Agents, *that they had taken a Felucca, with six Mariners aboard, and four short Coats, completely armed, upon one of whom they had found a large Pacquet of Letters; that they had bound them, and came to know his Pleasure, how they should dispose of the Prisoners.* The General order'd them *to be brought before him*; which being accordingly done, and the Letters opened, it appeared they were sent from the Duke of *Mataloni* to his Secretary: But nothing could be gathered from them, because they were written in a mysterious and unintelligible Manner: *Masaniello* therefore commanded *the short Coats to be dragged to the Rack, in Hopes that Torments might force them to a Discovery.* But whether they were ignorant of any Design, or would not disclose what they knew, they suffer'd long

long the Torture, after which, they had their Heads taken off and fix'd upon Poles, for an Example, to deter others from bringing Messages from the declared Enemies of the Commonwealth. The six Mariners were also strictly examined; but their Innocence appearing evidently by the Ingenuity of their Answers, they were acquitted and set at Liberty.

Though nothing, as has been said, could be inferr'd from the intercepted Letters, tending to the Hurt or Prejudice of the *most faithful People*, yet did they very much increase *Masaniello's* Diffidence; who, to prevent the Duke of *Mataloni* from putting in Practice any Project he might have on Foot, appointed Thirty Thousand Men more for the Guard of the City and Suburbs, and renew'd the Order of the preceding Day, *to let none come in or go out at the City-Gates without his special Permission.* Nor was this all; for he detach'd several Parties of arm'd Men, to go in Search of the Duke's Servants, and of such other Persons as were either related to him, or had
any

any Dependence upon him; fully resolved, to exert his Vengeance upon him in the Persons of his Friends or Domesticks. Whereupon several of them being apprehended and brought before him, he caused them to be tortured, in order to make them reveal where the Duke was, or where he had conceal'd his Goods: Among these, a Slave of the Duke's being taken, as he was leading a Couple of fine Horses, to save his Life, declar'd, *that his Master's Goods were hid in several Monasteries*, which he named; and who, upon the General's Summons, surrender'd all the Duke's rich Moveables, computed to be worth above Five Hundred Thousand Crowns, besides Four Thousand Crowns in Specie. *Masaniello* caused the said Goods to be immediately transported to a Magazine near the Market-place, and there laid up without any body's daring under Pain of Life, to carry off the least Rag; but the Money he distributed among the Centinels whom he had appointed for the Defence of the City. And not contented with having deprived this Noble-
man

man of so many Riches, he ordered his Palace at *Cbiaga*, which was a noble and magnificent Structure, to be burnt; in the Execution of which Order, the furious Rabble chancing to find his Picture, after they had strangely mangled and disfigured it, *Masaniello* himself hung it upon the same Post to which the Head and Foot of Don *Pepe Caraffa* were fastened, putting this Inscription in large Letters underneath:

THIS IS THE DUKE OF
MATALONI, REBEL TO
HIS MAJESTY, AND
TRAITOR TO THE MOST
FAITHFUL PEOPLE.

One Thing very remarkable in this Event, and which by many has been look'd upon as a Judgment of God, is, that the Post on which were suspended the Head of *Caraffa*, and the Effigies of the Duke of *Mataloni*, was erected upon the very Spot where the innocent and unfortunate Prince of *Sanza* had, at the Instigation of these two Brothers, been beheaded, pursuant

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pursuant to the Sentence passed upon him by the Duke of *Medina de las Torres*, then Viceroy of *Naples*.

While *Masaniello* was thus wreaking his Rage, not only upon the Duke of *Mataloni*, but upon several other rich Persons, whose Houses were by his Command either burnt or demolish'd, the Viceroy, who saw himself quite destitute of Provisions in *Castelnovo*, sent him a Messenger to acquaint him with his Necessities, and to desire him to send him some Relief. *Masaniello* readily consented, and sent him fifty Men heavy laden with all Sorts of Provisions: And to shew himself still more complaisant to the *Spaniards*, he ordered great Store of Victuals, as well as a Supply of Money, to be given to *Doria* the Admiral, who, notwithstanding his repeated Instances to *Masaniello*, could never obtain Leave for himself or any of his Men to come ashore.

By this Time, the Fisherman of *Amalphi*, grown insolent with Success and Power, expected Observance from every Body, even the Princes of the Church; and therefore he sent a Mes-
sage,

fage to the Viceroy, intimating, that he wondered very much he had not seen Cardinal *Trivultio* all this while. The Cardinal, who had an Apartment in the Viceroy's Palace, being advised by his Excellency and the Archbishop to visit *Masaniello*, who otherwise might be apt to take Exception, and perhaps affront his Lordship, went in his Coach to the Market-place, where he saluted the bare-footed Fisherman with the Title of *Most Illustrious*; to which *Masaniello* replying, said, *This Visit from your Eminence, though indeed it be somewhat of the latest, is nevertheless very dear to me.* The Standers-by could scarce forbear laughing at his Words; and some of them were even offended, to see a Fellow, extracted out of the Dirt, arrogate as much State as if he had been the greatest Prince in Christendom. His Eminence, after a short Visit, took his Leave, and *Masaniello* ordered two Files of Musqueteers to conduct him to the Castle. But, before he could well get there, several Gentlemen came in the Viceroy's Name, to return *Masaniello* Thanks for

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the Refreshments he had sent him, and desired him to accept of divers Presents which they brought from his Excellency. And soon after he received another Message from the Vice-Queen, who desired to know how he did, and also presented him with a rich Suit of Cloaths, which she pray'd him to wear for her Sake.

July 13. D. Sab. The great Day at length appeared, in which the Inhabitants of *Naples* expected to see the Publick Tranquility fully restored and firmly established, by the solemn Sanction of the Capitulations, the Ceremony of which was to be performed in the Cathedral Church. *Masaniello* having spent all the Morning in hearing Causes, redressing Grievances, and making several Regulations relating to Affairs both Civil and Military, the Viceroy, immediately after Dinner, sent him a Pair of very fine Horses, very richly caparisoned, the one for himself, and the other for his Brother, to appear with at the Cavalcade.

All Things being in Readiness, *Masaniello* and his Brother both dressed in Cloth of Silver Tissue, move slowly

slowly towards the Castle, the former bearing a drawn Sword in his Hand, and the latter the Articles of Capitulation. Next after these came *Julio Genovino*, and *Ciccio Arpaia* the Elect of the People; followed by an incredible Multitude of People, which thickened from Street to Street, by other Numbers that join'd them as they went along. They came to the Palace, where *Masaniello* having met with a most courteous Reception from the Viceroy, soon after came down again with his Excellency, the Collateral Council, the Council of State, and all the principal Officers and Magistrates of the Kingdom, who, in great Pomp and Order, went together to the Cathedral. The Archbishop, at the Head of his Chapter, stood ready at the Church-Door to receive them: And being entered and seated every one, according to his Rank and Degree of Precedence, the Capitulations were read aloud by *Donnato Coppola* Secretary of the Kingdom; after which the Viceroy, the Councils of State and War, the Royal Chamber of *Santa Chbiara*, the Tribunals of the *Chancery*, and

and all the Civil and Criminal Judges of the Great Court of the *Vicaria*, swore upon the *Holy Evangelists*, to observe them inviolably for ever, and to procure without Delay the Ratification of them from his Catholick Majesty. During the Reading of the Articles, *Masaniello* stood up all the while with his Sword drawn in his Hand, and was very busy in explaining some of them to the People, and inlarging very much upon others: But, as soon as the Oath had been administered, and *Te Deum* sung by an excellent Chorus, he made a Harangue, wherein he addressed himself sometimes to the Viceroy, and sometimes to the Multitude; confounding several good Things with many senseless and impertinent ones; which the Pride of having successfully brought about so great a Design, made him utter with a deal of Boldness and Freedom of Speech. Having finished his Discourse, he began to tear in Pieces the rich Dress he had on, and desired the Archbishop and the Viceroy to help him off with it, saying, *That as he had only put it on for the Honour of the Ceremony,*

Ceremony, it was now become useless since that was ended; that, for his Part, he had done all he had to do, and would now return to his Hook and Line. This Proceeding seems to have been a Prelude to the Madness which not long after possessed him. However, being made to understand, *that it would be very indecent to strip in the Church, and in the Sight of so many Persons,* he went out with the Viceroy, who, with all the Nobility and Gentry that attended him, made a Procession through the most publick Streets of the City, and then returned to the Castle, where he was saluted by several Peals of Ordinance. *Masaniello* having taken his Leave of the Viceroy, went back to his House in the Market-place, through all the Acclamations and Blessings that were due from the People to the great Restorer of their Privileges.

July 14. Thus ended that happy Day, which crown'd all *Naples* with Joy, and put a new Face upon the whole City. And the next, *Masaniello*, as the Author of this great Change, was congratulated, and received the

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Compliments

Compliments of several of the Nobility and Gentry, the Ministers of State, and almost all the Ecclesiasticks and Religious Orders of the City, who, from thence went to pay their Respects also to the Archbishop, and returned him Thanks, *for having, by his great Zeal and indefatigable Care, contributed very much to bring the Commotions to so happy a Period.*

But, Masaniello, who from the seventh Day of July, to the Sunday following, had behaved himself with so much Wisdom and Kingly Authority, to the great Surprize of every Body, grew delirious all on a sudden. His Madness first appeared, by the Manner in which he treated the most Illustrious Caraffelli, Archbishop of Santa Severina. This Prelate having occasion to repair to his Archbishoprick, and there being an Order still in Force, forbidding any body to go out of the City, without a Licence first obtained from Masaniello, he went to his House in order to get one. *What wouldst thou have, my fine Lord?* said the Fisherman as soon as he saw him; *Your Leave,* replied

replied his Eminence, to go to my Church in Calabria, whither my Affairs call me : Upon which Masaniello call'd out, *Who waits there ? Let four Hundred Men get ready quickly to accompany my Lord as far as his Bishoprick.* Sir, says the Archbishop, I do not go by Land, but by Sea ; and, for that Purpose, have provided four Feluccas to transport me and my Family. Four Feluccas ! answered Masaniello ; You mean Forty, my Lord ; at least I intend you shall have so many to attend you. Sir, replied the Archbishop, I thank you, but Four will serve my Turn as well as Forty ; more would not only be needless, but troublesome. Well, says Masaniello, offering him a Bag full of double Pistoles, as to that, your Lordship may do as you please ; but you shan't refuse this little Present, which I desire you to accept of, 'twill defray the Expence of your Voyage. The Prelate smil'd, and giving him many Thanks, told him, he did not want them. Nay, replied Masaniello, did not I say I would not be refused ? Here, I command you, upon pain of my Displeasure, to take them.

The Archbishop thinking it unsafe to resist the Caprice of a Madman, was forced to compound, and at last accepted of Five Hundred of them: The Fisherman then gave him a Passport in Writing, and having embraced him, wished him *a good Voyage*. Much about the same Time, a Gentleman of *Auverfa* coming to speak with him about some private Concerns of his own, he dispatched him with a Kick in the Br—ch, saying, *Be gone, I make thee Prince of Auverfa*.

Many and various are the Reflections that have been made upon this sudden Madness of *Masaniello*. Some are of Opinion, That that stupendous Height of Power to which he arriv'd, as it were in an Instant, made him giddy, and turn'd his Brains. Others will have it to be occasioned by the great and continual Fatigues he underwent, scarce ever allowing himself Time to take the natural Refreshments of Food or Sleep. But, the most probable and received Opinion is, that the Viceroy had given him an intoxicating Draught, which, by inflaming his Blood, should make him

him, commit such Extravagancies, as would oblige the People to despise and forsake him.

Without extending myself particularly upon a Relation of his Follies, I shall only observe, that the *Sunday* immediately following the Conclusion of the Treaty, he got on Horseback, and riding full speed through all the Streets of *Naples*, he not only abused, maimed, and even killed many Persons who had the Misfortune to come in his way; but also caused several Officers, for the most trivial Offences, to be apprehended, and put instantly to death.

About three of the Clock in the Afternoon, he went to the Palace, having a ragged Coat on his Back, only one Stocking, and without either Hat, Sword, or Band; and shewing himself in this Equipage to the Viceroy, he told him, *he was almost starv'd to death, and would fain eat something.* Whereupon his Excellency calling to his Servants, and commanding something to be brought and set before the Lord Masaniello, *Amalphi* replied, *that it was no Matter, for he did not come then to eat,*

but to desire his Excellency to accompany him as far as Posillippo, where they should take a Collation together, having provided every thing necessary for that Purpose; and at the same Time giving a Call, several Mariners came in, loaden with all Sorts of Fruits and Dainties. But the Viceroy, who was not in a Humour to drink with the crazy Fisherman, excused himself on Account of a Pain in his Head, with which, he said, he was that very Moment taken; and ordering his own Gondola to be made ready, Masaniello went aboard, and was attended by Forty Feluccas, which were filled with Persons who used their utmost Endeavours to divert him; some of them dancing, some playing upon musical Instruments, and others diving to pick up several Pieces of Gold which he threw into the Sea.

This agreeable Airing, instead of refreshing him, rather contributed to extinguish that small Spark of Reason that was left in him, and wholly deprived him of his Senses. For 'tis reported of him, that in going and coming,

coming, he drank no less than twelve Bottles of a strong-bodied Wine call'd *Lachrymæ Christi*, which so dried up his Brain, that he was never after seen to act or to speak in cool Blood. In the mean while *Masaniello's* Wife went to visit the Vice-Queen, in a new Coach, which the Duke of *Mataloni* had bespoke for his Wedding-Day, and for which he was to pay Eight Thousand Ducats: She was magnificently dress'd, and had about her a vast Quantity of rich Jewels, that had been presented to her by her Excellency. The Vice-Queen gave her a most honourable Reception; and having treated her very splendidly, and put upon her Finger a Ring of great Value, she returned Home very well pleased, with her Husband's Mother, and his two Sisters, who had accompanied her in this Visit.

Masaniello being return'd late from *Pofillippo*, he appear'd again upon the Morrow on Horseback, riding up and down the City like a Devil broke loose, and striking and wounding with his drawn Sword every Body he met with: Nor did his Frenzy discover
itself

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itself less by his Words than by his Actions: For sometimes he talk'd of giving up the Supreme Command, and indeed he had sent a Message to the Duke of Arcos the Day before to that Effect; and, at other Times, he said *he would take off the Viceroy's Head*. He sent an Order, under pain of Death and Firing, to Don Ferrant and Don Carlos Carracciolo, two Nobles, to come and kiss his Feet publicly in the Market-place, for not stepping out of their Coaches to salute him, as they accidentally passed by him in the Street.

The Viceroy being inform'd at large of these horrid Extravagancies, and fearing, that this Madman, back'd by a mutinous Rabble, might some time or other make him feel the Effects of his frantick Fury, he fortified himself once more in Castelnovo, by digging a deep Trench all round it, and introducing into the Palace as many Soldiers as he could get together. But while he was employed in providing thus for his own Defence, Don Ferrant and Don Carlos, instead of obeying the Fisherman's insolent Summons, came

came and presented themselves before him; *deploring the miserable and abject Condition of the Neapolitan Nobility, who, all on a sudden fallen from their ancient Glory, now saw themselves trampled under Feet, by a Wretch that was sprung from the very Dregs of the Rabble.* As they were yet speaking, Genovino and Arpaja also came in; heavily complaining against Masaniello, who, but a few Hours before, had caned one of them, and given a Slap o' the Face to the other. They told the Viceroy, *that these strange and unreasonable Proceedings had so terrified the civil Sort of People, and taken them off from their Affection to Masaniello, that many of the chief Citizens having by their Advice met together, they came to a Resolution of letting his Excellency know,* "That provided they
 " could be well assured of never
 " being molested in the Enjoyment
 " of the Immunities and Privileges
 " restored, they would no longer
 " follow Masaniello, but instantly re-
 " turn to their former Obedience
 " and Duty to his Excellency." The
 Viceroy,

Viceroy, pleased to know that the People were in the very Disposition he could wish, immediately published a new Ban, by which he re-confirmed the Capitulations; which was no sooner done, but a considerable Number of Citizens met in the Piazza of St. *Ambrogi*, where it was unanimously agreed, "That the Office of Head and Captain-General of the People should be taken away from *Masaniello*, and That he should be confin'd in a strong Hold for the Remainder of his Days." But no-body could find in his Heart, to take away the Life of him who had restored the publick Liberty, and free'd his Country.

But these Resolutions were not powerful enough to remove the Viceroy's Fears; and though he fancied he saw *Masaniello* void of Power, and fast bound in Chains, yet even in this Light, he could not consider him without trembling: He therefore resolv'd not to reject the Proposal that was made him by *Michel Angelo Arizzone*, who offer'd to make away with him at the Hazard of his own Life:

Life: And the better to encourage him to put in Execution this hardy Undertaking, the Viceroy promised him, among other Things, a Reward of Ten Thousand Crowns.

In the mean time, *Masaniello*, who had taken t'other Jaunt to *Pesillippa*, and knew nothing of what was intended against him, was now upon his Return; and being landed, began to do a thousand extravagant Things: At last he leap'd with all his Cloaths on into the Sea; from whence soon after coming out again, and brandishing his Sword aloft, he ran full drive among the Crowd that was standing upon the Beach, who, fearing he should do some Mischief, were obliged in their own Defence to make sure of his Person: And accordingly, having laid hold on him, and bound him, they took him to his own House, where they left him under a strong and sure Guard.

Next Morning, being *Tuesday*, the 16th of *July*, *Marco Vitale*, a young Man of great Wit and Vivacity, and chief Secretary to *Masaniello*, being got out of the Castle, where, it seems, he

he had been, upon some Pretence or other, detain'd all Night, for Fear he should dive into, and discover to his Master, the secret Designs that were carrying on against him; it happened, I say, that as he was going along, he met, not far from the Palace, several Companies of Soldiers in Arms; and proudly asking them, *By whose Authority they had taken up Arms?* One of the Captains told him, *'Twas by Order of the Viceroy.* *'Tis well,* (replied Vitale very unseasonably) *I am going directly to the Market-place, and thy Head shall pay for't.* The Captain answer'd this Menace, no otherwise than by running his Sword into the Body of this unfortunate Wretch, who, with this Wound, and a Pistol-shot that succeeded it, fell down dead upon the Spot.

The Viceroy, fearing that if this Accident should come to the Knowledge of *Masaniello*, he might get the Start of him and keep upon his Guard, he urged the Conspirators to *hasten his Death.* But this poor Lunatick, having a little before made his Escape out of Custody, went into the Church
of

of our Lady of Carmine, whose Festival being this Day to be celebrated, was fill'd with an infinite Number of Persons who came there to perform their Devotions, and waited for the Archbishop's Coming to sing Mass. As soon as he appear'd, *Masaniello* went up to him, and told him, that *he plainly perceived the People had abandoned him, and now went about to take away his Life, that since he must die, he desired that the Viceroy, and all the Tribunals of Naples, would first make a Solemn Procession to the most holy Mother of Carmine, his Patroness, and that afterwards Death would be welcome to him; and at the same time, putting a Letter into the Hands of the Archbishop, he desired his Eminence to send Some-body with it to the Vicero.* The Archbishop having imbraced him, and very much commended him *for his Religious Zeal,* immediately dispatched one of his Gentlemen with the Letter to the Palace; and then coming up to the Great Altar, he put himself in a Posture to begin the Service, when *Masaniello* going into the Pulpit, and

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holding out a Crucifix in his Hand, directed himself to the People, and earnestly besought them *not to forsake him*; putting them in Mind of the *Dangers and the Toils which he had encountered and undergone for their Sake*; the great Deliverance he had wrought for them; and lastly, the rich and inestimable Benefits which he had procured them, and they had so lately seen confirmed in this very Church. But the Vehemency of his Discourse, throwing him again into one of his raving Fits; he began to condemn himself for the *Badness of his past Life*, and exhorted every one to make the like Confession to their Ghostly Father, that God's Anger might thereby be appeased: From these, he ran into several other extravagant and ridiculous Expressions, some of which favouring of Heresy, the Archbishop was forced to use the Interposition of some of the Assistants to get him out of the Pulpit. As soon as he was come down, he went to the Altar, and throwing himself at the Archbishop's Feet, he intreated his Eminence, *to depute his Chaplain to*
the

the Viceroy, to assure him, that he was ready to resign his Office and Authority to his Excellency. The Archbishop promised he would do it; and seeing he was all in a Sweat, occasioned by the violent Agitation of his Spirits, he commanded some of the Religious to take him to their Dorter, to have him dried, and to let him refresh himself with a little Sleep.

Scarce was this Order executed, and the Archbishop gone out of the Church, when the Assassins, who had conspired the Death of Masaniello, came into it, and from thence passed to the Cloyster, crying out, *Long live the King of Spain, and let none from henceforth upon Pain of Life obey Masaniello.* Tho' the Conspirators were but very few in Number, yet, the People did not oppose them; but on the contrary, making Way for them, they went strait to the Convent, searching and inquiring every-where for Masaniello. This unhappy Man, hearing Somebody call Masaniello, runs out to meet his Murderers, saying, *Is it me you look for, my People? Behold, I am*

here! But all the Answer he had was from four Mufquets that were fired upon him all at one Time, by *Salvatore Cataneo*, *Carlos Cataneo*, *Angelo Ardizzone*, and *Andrea Rama*. He instantly dropp'd down upon the Place, and having but juſt Time enough to cry out, *Ab! ingrateful Traytors*, he breathed his laſt. *Salvatore Cataneo* then cut off his Head, and fixing it on the Top of a Spear, he and his Accomplices carried it directly to the Viceroy, crying out all the Way, as they went along, *Maſaniello is dead, Maſaniello is dead: Let the King of Spain live and let no-body preſume hereafter to name Maſaniello*. This bold Action ſo terrified the Rabble, who, to the Number of about Eight or Ten Thouſand, were then in the Church, or in the Market-place, that far from avenging the Death of their Captain-General by that of his Murderers, they ſeem'd ſtupified and motionleſs; and in this Occurrence, gave a memorable Inſtance of the Inconſtancy of the Populace, whoſe Love may be juſtly compared to a broken Reed, which whoever leans

leans upon, is sure of falling. In Effect, this same People who, from the first Beginning of the Insurrection, had loved *Masaniello* even to Adoration, calmly saw him murdered, and without murmuring suffered his Head to be taken off, and afterwards thrown into a Ditch call'd the *Corn-Ditch* by his Homicides; whilst his Body, at the Instigation of his Enemies, was, as he himself had foretold it, dragg'd thro' all the Kennels of *Naples* by a Company of Black-Guards, who, when they were tired with hailing it about, cast it into another Town-Ditch, that lies without *Porta Nolana*.

It would be difficult to say how greatly the Nobility and Gentry were transported with Joy upon this Occasion. They, who did not dare to shew their Heads, or stir abroad during the Commotions, came now in Sholes, as one may say, to congratulate the Viceroy upon their happy Period and the Death of *Masaniello*. After which his Excellency, accompanied by the Archbishop, and the Chief Officers and Magistrates of the Kingdom, went with great Solemnity to the Church of

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Carmine, to return God Thanks and the most Glorious Patron of *Napels* *St. Gennaro*, whose Sacred Head and blood were taken out and exposed to publick View. This Act of Devotion Being performed, his Excellency the Viceroy shewed himself in the Great Market-place, where he caused the Confirmation of the Articles sworn to the *Saturday* before, to be proclaim'd by Sound of Trumpet; and then returned to his Palace, with the universal Acclamations of that very Rabble, who but a few Days before, had pulled him by the Wiskers, and offered him all manner of Indignities.

v Thus rose and fell *Masaniello* of *Amalphi*, the Dread of the *Spaniards*, the Avenger of Publick Oppressions, and the Saviour of his desolate Country, All Antiquity cannot furnish us with such another Example as his; and After-Ages will hardly believe what Height of Power this ridiculous Sovereign arrived to, who, trampling bare-foot on a Throne, and wearing a Manner's Cap instead of a Diadem, in the Space of four Days, raised an Army of above 150,000 Men, and
made

made himself Master of one of the most populous Cities in the World; of *Naples*, the Metropolis of so many fair Provinces, and ~~at~~ once the Mother and the Nurse of so many illustrious Princes, and renowned Heroes. And, as if Fortune, that capricious Jilt, had taken Delight in raising a Fisherman above the greatest Monarch, she not only submitted to his Empire, that innumerable Rabble that always followed him, but even that ancient and generous *Neapolitan* Nobility itself, whose immortal Exploits have filled the whole Universe with their Fame. In short, it may be averred without Excess, that, neither the most formidable Tyrant, nor the Princes the most beloved, were ever so much dreaded, or so soon obeyed, as *Masaniello* was, during his short but stupendous Reign. His Orders were without Reply; his Decrees without Appeal; and the Destiny of all *Naples* might be said to depend upon a single Motion of his Hand.

Those who have most curiously inquir'd into this great and sudden Revolution of which he was the Author, have

have for the most Part look'd upon it as a pure and immediate Effect of God's Judgments, who, to chastise the Avarice, the Pride, and the Barbarity of the *Spanish* Ministers, which were then at their highest Pitch, singled out the Arm of this poor Fisherman, to execute his Anger. Nor is this Opinion without Foundation: For, if we examine the Actions and Accidents of *Masaniello's* Life, we shall find them too extraordinary and too wonderful, not to have been in a peculiar Manner directed by the Hand of Providence. 'Tis reported, that whilst he was yet in the Cradle, two *Capuchins* accidentally calling in at his Mother's House, one of them took him into his Arms, and having look'd very steadfastly upon him for some Time, he told her, that *that Child should one Day come to be the Master of Naples, but that his Government would have but a very short Duration.* We have already taken Notice of his own Prophecies relating to his Death, together with the Cause, Time, and Manner of it. But, what will raise our Admiration most of all, is, that

he

he, who had never had any Education, and who had always passed among those of his Acquaintance for a mere *Natural*, was all on a sudden seen to act and to speak, as if he had been conversant in Politicks and the Management of Publick Affairs. And indeed, with how much Wisdom did he not make and maintain in the very Heat of the Commotions, the most useful Orders and Regulations that the wisest Legislators and the most experienced Generals could ever be capable of? With what Art and Address did he not insinuate himself into the Hearts of so many Thousands of Men, by far his Superiors, encouraging the Fearful, extolling the Bold, reproaching the Coward, and most pathetically describing to all, the miserable State of their Country, groaning under the heavy Exactions of proud and avaricious Ministers, and animating them to revenge and redress themselves? Cardinal *Filomarino* himself has acknowledged, that in the several Conferences he had with him, with respect to the Treaty of Accommodation, he had often been amazed at the

Solidity

Solidity of his Judgment, and the Subtlety of his Contrivances. In short, let us but reflect upon the Greatness of that Enterprize which he projected, and executed for the Good of his Country: That indefatigable Assiduity with which he applied himself to it, which robb'd him of the Hours of Nourishment and Repose, and made him dictate to seven Secretaries, all at one Time: * That just Severity, which obliging him to put so many Persons to Death, never exerted itself on any whose Crimes had not deserved it: But, above all, that noble and generous Disinterestedness, which kept him poor in the Midst of such vast Heaps of Wealth: And we shall be apt to conclude, with a certain *Neapolitan Gentleman*, "That *Masaniello* seems to have been endowed with no other Qualifications, but such as were necessary for the Execution of the Divine Vengeance." As to the Duke of *Arcos*, whether he acted with Prudence or no, in causing *Masaniello* to be put to Death, I will not take upon me to determine. However, I think it may be justly doubted,

* Com. de Mod.

doubted, whether the Death of *Masaniello* was not more to the Prejudice than the Benefit of *Spain*. For altho' it may be alledged, that the Sedition which he first promoted, seemingly tended to the Hurt of the State, and the weakening of the Sovereign Authority, yet it is certain, he was so far from endeavouring to estrange the Peoples Affections and Allegiance from *Philip* the IV. who reigned at that Time, that, on the contrary, he always professed the greatest Respect and Veneration for him: For, besides making the People often cry out, *long live the King of Spain*, and commanding them to put his Majesty's Arms over their Doors, his receding from that Proposition, whereby the Castle of *St. Elmo* was to be delivered into his Hands, as a Security for the Performance of the Conditions of Peace, is an undeniable Proof of his Loyalty. Besides, the very Com-motions which he raised in *Naples*, may be said to have been in some Manner advantageous to the *Spaniards*; since they contributed very much to the Extirpation of the Outlaws and other publick Nuisances, and, at the same Time,

Time, fully revenged them upon the Nobility, by the cruel Rage with which the Rabble pursued them. Lastly, the Abolishment of the Gabels seems to have been in a great Measure beneficial to his Catholick Majesty, whose Domain and other Revenues scarce amounting to a Million of Gold yearly, was now on the Point of receiving five Million all at once, by Means of a Donative which *Masaniello* had resolved to present him with, and which he would certainly have accomplished, (having already levied considerable Sums to that End) if the Suddenness of his Death had not prevented it.

But it is not just, that these Reflections should make us leave the Head and the Body of *Masaniello* so long unburied and asunder; and after having exposed the Ingratitude of the People, in forsaking their great Deliverer, it is but reasonable, that we should also take Notice of the Sorrow and Repentance which they express'd for it, by the pompous Obsequies with which they honour'd his Remains. *July 17.* The Day immediately following that of his Death, several Children, at the Persuasion of some Persons

Persons who told them, *it was a Shame that the Corpse of him who had done so much for the Good of his Country, should be thus exposed to the Dogs,* went and fetched his Body, and after they had washed and cleaned it well, carried it on a Bier to the Cathedral Church of *Carminé*. At the same time, a young Man, living in the Market-place, called *Jeronymo Donneruma*, went with a Company of Men all armed to look for his Head in the *Corn Ditch*; and having found it, he brought it along with him to the same Place where the Body was, in order to have them joined together. This being done, it was resolved, in a general Assembly of the People, who were gathered together on Purpose, *that Masaniello deserved to receive the greatest Honours, as Head and Captain-General of Naples*; and accordingly, his Corpse, preceded by five hundred Priests and Religious, and followed by forty thousand Men up in Arms, and almost as many Women with Beads in their Hands, was carried through several of the most publick

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Streets of the City, with all the Solemnities that are commonly used at the Funeral of a Martial Commander. As they passed by the Palace of the Viceroy, his Excellency, to conform to the Times, lent eight of his Pages, with Torches in their Hands, to accompany the Corpse, and at the same Time, ordered the *Spaniards* who were then upon Guard, to lower their Ensigns and salute him as he went by. He was at last brought back again to the Cathedral Church, and there buried; whilst all the Bells in *Naples* rung a mournful Peal, and amidst the Tears and Lamentations of an infinite Multitude of Women, who shewed so much Respect and Veneration to his Dust, that one may say, that by the Effect of a popular Inconstancy which is not to be equalled, *Masaniello*, in less than three Days, was obeyed like a Monarch, murdered like a Villain, and revered like a Saint.

Thus have I traced the History of the *Neapolitans*, from the first Origin of their Civil Misfortunes and Sufferings, under a ravenous and over-bearing

ing Ministry, to the first Period of Tyranny and Oppression among them; that is to say, to their being restored to the full Possession of their Rights and Privileges, by the Fisherman-Hero. Happy for them, had they never been molested in the Enjoyment of them, and the Publick Faith remained inviolate! But alas! They were soon made sensible, by a fatal Experience, That the most sacred, and most religious Oaths and Covenants, are not strong enough to bind Princes, nor their Ministers, to act contrary to their Views of Interest and Ambition. Not many Days after *Masaniello's* Death, the Viceroy made *Julio Genovino* President of one of the Courts of Justice, and gave him, besides, several other publick Marks of his Favour and Esteem. The People were surprized at it; and they could not conceive what it was, that should induce the Viceroy to give such extraordinary Demonstrations of Favour, to a Man, who had, with the greatest Warmth, so lately espoused the Interest of the *Neapolitans*, and upon all Occasions had in a particular Manner,

manifested his Enmity to the *Spaniards*: This was a Mystery to them, and they were at a Loss to unriddle it. But it was not long before their Eyes were opened, by the Publication of the Printed Treaty. They observed, that the Fourteenth Article in it, contain'd a Salvo, which had not been read to them in the Cathedral Church, and which indeed made the Treaty void and of no Effect: The Purport of it is as follows:

“ That all Taxes and Gabels ‘till then,
 “ imposed and exacted, should be ab-
 “ rogated and annulled for ever; such
 “ of them only EXCEPTED, as
 “ were alienated to private or particular
 “ Persons, which should always subsist,
 “ any Thing in this Treaty mention’d
 “ to the contrary, notwithstanding.”

Now, there being no Tax in the Kingdom, but what was alienated, All the Gabels and Taxes consequently remain’d still in Force; and this Treaty, that was concluded with so much Solemnity, and afterwards confirmed by so many Oaths, was only a Politick Trick, to lull the People asleep, till the Ministry should find a fit Opportunity to re-plunge.

plunge them into a State of Slavery and Subjection. But all Crimes are not successful alike; and the Allwise Providence of Heaven would not suffer so heinous a Violation of the Publick-Faith, sworn, and pledg'd upon the Altars, to go unpunish'd. Those who had first discover'd the Fraud, immediately communicate it to their Neighbours: These again divulge it to the People. In an Instant, the whole City is alarm'd. Multitudes of People flock together in Haste to the Market-place, as is usual in Cases of Publick Danger. They plainly perceive, now, the Reason of *Genovino's* new Preferment, and they conclude, *that he has sold them to the Ministry.* On a sudden, they give a Loose to their Rage and Indignation; they fly to their Arms; and in the first Heat of their furious Resentment, they utter a thousand direful Imprecations against the Government, in whom they could no longer confide. This was the Beginning of a Civil War, that in the End proved fatal to the *Spaniards*. The Authors of it, unimproved by so recent an Example of what an injured

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and exasperated People can do in their own Defence, and the Defence of their Liberty, soon saw themselves and their Country involved in all the Calamities and Horrors that attend intestine Feuds and Dissentions: And some of them, by meeting with a more hasty and exemplary Punishment, have left behind them, an everlasting Monument of the Wrath of Heaven against perjur'd and avaritious Ministers.



FINIS.